



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative



Students at Agnes Water State School develop their skills in more ways than just hitting the books. The Year 5/6's (above) prepare the canvas piece for the 1770 Art Exhibition after discussions around preferred futures, while Year 1/2 students explore procedures and focus on our ANZAC history using our new kitchen space.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Tues 9 May	NAPLAN - Language & Writing
Wed 10 May	NAPLAN - Reading
Thurs 11 May	NAPLAN - Mathematics
Thurs 11 May	Mother's Day Stall
Thurs 11 May	District Cross Country
Mon 15 May	P&C Meeting
Tues 16 May	AFL Gala Day - Girls
Tues 16 May	Principal Meeting
Wed 17 May	Principal Meeting
Sat 20 May	1770 Festival - Street March
Mon 22 May	Principal Meeting
Tues 23 May	Principal Meeting
Tues 23 May	UNSW Digital Technologies
Wed 24 May	Principal Meeting
Fri 26 May	Under 8's Day
Fri 26 May	Interschool Chess Tournament
Tues 30 May	UNSW Science
Thurs 1 June	Bundaberg Show Holiday
Wed 7 June	Interschool Debating
Fri 9 June	Pyjama Day
Mon 12 June	UNSW Writing
Wed 14 June	UNSW Spelling
Fri 16 June	Jump Rope for Heart
Tues 20 June	Semester One Report Cards
Wed 21 June	Athletics Carnival
Thurs 22 June	Athletics Carnival
Fri 23 June	Behaviour Celebration Day



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Positive Behaviour for Learning is a key element of our school wide strategy to improve learning outcomes for all students. We know that with calm, positive classrooms, the learning opportunities and outcomes for students increase. Like all learning areas, positive behaviour must be taught and emphasised and there has to be individual motivation. Over the last three years, we have continued to focus on acknowledging positive behaviours through our Captain Star Fish awards, Student of the Week awards focused on our four school rules and lessons in classrooms around these expectations.

Each month, we meet as a staff and review the number of behavioural incidences that are recorded across our school, looking at areas for us to focus upon, share ways to enhance our learning environments and monitor individual behaviours. I am extremely pleased with the work of our team over the last three years and the significant improvement in the level of behaviours exhibited across our school. This is not only reflected in the number of incidences, but the number of individual students involved.

Our most recent PBL meeting highlighted these continued improvements and a review of Major Behaviours from the 17 April until the 5 May highlights only 5 incidences. This is a significant enhancement in our school where we were previously experience 30 or more incidences in the same period of time.

Congratulations to our students, staff and parents for contributing so effectively to a positive school environment.

Car Parking Update

On Friday 5 May, I met with the Gladstone Regional Council and representatives from facilities branch of Education Queensland. We reviewed the current concept plan for future car parking and stop, drop and go area to enhance the safety of everyone accessing our school. There are a few small refinements needed for the design concept proposed by Gladstone Regional Council, however this is currently being worked on and should be resolved shortly enabling project costing to be calculated and funding sources to be obtained. Once the updated and concept designs have been

approved by Gladstone Regional Council, TMR and Education Queensland, I will be able to share the project scope with the community.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience. It is important that users of the carpark areas continue to operate safely and legally, using only the designated car park areas and consider their speed when moving around the school zone. Queensland Police will be continuing to assist our school in monitoring traffic movement to help ensure a safe environment for our students.

Teacher Education

Commencing from the 15 May our school will be joined by three Pre-Service Teachers completing various stages of their university studies. These teachers will work across the school, but will be primarily based in Prep, Year 2/3 and Year 3 classes. We welcome Natalie Cupples, Averil Summers and Pamela Mainey to our school.

Student Council News

This year we established a Student Council for the first time. The student council comprises of our student leaders and is focused on contributing a student voice into our school. The student council were instrumental in organising our fundraising for Tembi with the Tie Dye day in Term 1 and assist in the planning and preparation of Celebration Days. With the unfortunate cancellation of the Term 1's Behaviour Celebration Day, the student council have been discussing with students ideas for a larger scale event at the end of this term. Several ideas have been presented by students including a movie day, a day at Flip Out and Bundy Bowl. Final details and decisions will be made over the coming weeks.

Our student council are also working on raising funds to subsidise costs for the Year 6 camp. They have already held one successful fundraiser this year and have two more planned for this term and a rather colourful one in Term 3. The student leaders will be selling Icy Cups from our new kitchen on Tuesday's at 1st break for \$1.00, starting on Tuesday 16 May and have a Pyjama Day planned for Friday 9 June.

The student council are also working to promote school pride, discussing with their representative

classes, areas of the school to take care of and enhance.

1770 Festival & Art Exhibition

Our school will again participate in the 1770 Festival Street Parade on Saturday 20 May. We are asking interested students to come dressed in a costume representing real, or fictional items from the ocean, rivers or creeks. The theme for this year's festival is water paradise.

Students will need to meet at the Marina Cafe and will walk to the SES grounds. Final assembly times will be confirmed over the next few days.

Our school is also participating in the Large Canvas Project as part of the Art Exhibition. Our senior students have been working on a piece representing the future.

Head Lice

We have become aware of head lice being present and would ask that you check your child's hair this weekend and treat if necessary. This will help to contain the spreading of them as they are very contagious. Please check your child's head on a daily basis, looking closely at the scalp and checking the nape of the neck for eggs or the actual louse. Head lice are hard to see as they live close to the scalp and the hair must be parted to see them. A louse may be as small as a pinhead, but is usually larger. The eggs (nits) are easy to identify. Look for small silvery white eggs stuck firmly to the hair shaft near the scalp, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck.

Treatment options

- Only infested heads are to be treated at the same time.
- Pharmacies stock many varieties of head lice treatments, (to be used as directed)
- Apply most treatments to DRY HAIR and coat all hair from roots to tips.
- Detangle hair with a regular comb, separate the hair into sections and comb through the treatment. With a fine tooth comb (preferably steel not plastic), start at the nape of the neck, work from the roots to the tips and look for lice and eggs. Wipe the comb on a tissue until you have combed the entire head. Comb each section twice. (This can be done with head being held over the bath/laundry tub.)

- Remove all NITS (eggs). These are not easily removed from the hair, but must be removed to ensure effective lice treatment
- Repeat the conditioning and combing technique every two days until you find no more lice or nits.

Some causes of treatment failures

- Inappropriate treatment - not following treatment instructions properly.
- Hatching of the lice which survived the initial treatment.
- Product resistance.
- Infestation from contacts that had been inadequately treated or NOT treated.
- Irregular checking.

AFL

This term Year 5 & 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in the District AFL competition in Bundaberg. Our boys represented our school well with great sportsmanship and team work at Wednesday's carnival in Bundaberg. The girls have their opportunity to show off their skills on Tuesday 16 May.

NAPLAN

The 2017 NAPLAN will be held from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May for Year 3 and Year 5 students. These assessments focus on Literacy and Numeracy skills and are held in the morning session of each of these days. These assessments are important as they provide us a comparative performance to schools across the nation, however they are only one part of the picture of your child's success and educational capabilities. NAPLAN is one type of assessment on a given day. As a school we make judgements around student achievement by looking at student performance across various types of assessment and a period of time with multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their success.

As NAPLAN is only a small part of our assessment program in schools, we approach the testing accordingly. At Agnes Water State School, we have been preparing your children for the testing over the last few weeks by looking at the question types and how to manage their time effectively during this type of assessment. In readiness for the tests next week, we ask parents to ensure that children have a great night sleep before each

test and have a nutritious breakfast with health snacks for the day.

On the morning of each of the tests, we will be offering pancakes for our Year 3 & 5 students as a special treat from our new kitchen area.

NAPLAN results are normally released in late August.

General Uniform Information

It is a reminder that our school has a Code of Dress which outlines the uniform requirements for all students.

We are starting to see an increase in incorrect hats, shorts and jumpers being worn in the school. Students who are not in uniform are required to provide a written note with a suitable reason for each day they are not in full school uniform.

Where a student has a wrong piece of uniform that can be removed ie, hat, jumper, jewellery, students will be directed to place these items back into their bags and will be advised not to return these to school. This includes non-school coloured items.

Appropriate footwear is also necessary. Students must be in shoes that can be worn for sport based activities each day. Slip on shoes, sandals and thongs are not appropriate footwear.

Continual breaches of our code of dress will result in consequences for individual students.

Bundaberg Show Holiday

While our school operates in the Gladstone Regional Council, it forms part of the Bundaberg schooling area and is aligned with services that are supported from Bundaberg, including bus transportation and our feeder high school of Rosedale. It also aligns with the Agnes Water Childcare who have operated the Bundaberg Show Holiday as a public holiday in the past. Our school investigated the options of moving our show holiday in 2015, however the impacts of this outweighed remaining with the Bundaberg show holiday as the school has done for the last 27 years. Agnes Water State School will be closed on Thursday 1 June for the Bundaberg Show Holiday and will be open during the Gladstone Show Holiday in August.

Under 8's Day

Our 2017 Under 8's event will be held from 9:00am to 11:00am on Friday 26 May on our school oval. We invite our Prep to Year 2 students and families with children who have not yet reached school age to join in this fun morning, exploring learning through arts and craft.

Head of Curriculum News

Curriculum Implementation

As educators we know that whole school implementation of research based practice is essential for every student to have success. That is why we use common programs across the school to implement the Australian Curriculum. At Agnes Water State School we have developed a whole school Policy Practice Guide for each learning area. These practice guides outline what sorts of things we value as a school when teaching different subjects, and it outlines research based programs that we use to teach the curriculum area. It doesn't prescribe exactly HOW it must be taught because our teachers have their own creative methods of delivery, but it does ensure that regardless of who is teaching any class in our school, a consistent, research based program is implemented. When teachers are away or go on leave – it allows for the person replacing them to continue with the high quality curriculum delivery that we pride ourselves on. These guides have been made in collaboration with teachers and are another way that we are making sure we give your children the best we can.

How do we teach Science at AWSS?

As a staff we have committed to implementing Primary Connections as a part of our delivery of the Science Learning Area of the Australian Curriculum over the past 18 months. This program takes an inquiry and investigative approach while linking science to literacy. Teachers have an abundance of resources in the form of science crates for each unit and they adapt the units to fit their classes. Students in year 1 this week bought home some lovely artwork incorporating spaghetti – not just nice pictures, but the result of investigating how and why materials change and can be manipulated. Science at home can be something as fun as sprinkling grass seeds onto a cotton ball in an egg

shell – children love watching the tiny seedlings each day. Get them into the garden!

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

This week I would like to celebrate the efforts of our fantastic mums – in readiness for Mother’s Day next weekend. One of the nicest things about my job is that I get to see firsthand the rewards of a mother’s hard work. You all deserve medals – you dedicate yourselves to making sure your little ones have all they need to succeed – you bring them to school with full bellies and happy hearts, you read to them, you run them to tennis and dancing and football and piano, you patiently listen to their stories about the best kick they have ever done in their lives that day in soccer, you should be celebrated everyday. Thank you for the way you support other mums, for the way you support our teachers and for the way you give. Happy Mother’s Day.

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

“Our world is changing more rapidly than at any other time with the influence of technology spreading to touch every aspect of our lives. Queensland children and young people are ready to engage in this exciting future.

Through learning coding and robotics, we will prepare students for the jobs of the future and develop their skills in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and innovation.” Advancing Education: An Action Plan for Queensland.

At Agnes Water State School, we are meeting the challenge of a rapidly advancing technological world through the embedding of technology across all areas of the curriculum. This is achieved through the mediums we use such as augmented reality, using multiple technology devices such as iPads, laptops and desktop, the sharing of digital learning achieved through our new Interactive

Touch Screens and more recently the inclusion of a Coding Club run during lunch breaks.

The coding club offered for students in Prep to Year 6 builds the foundations of coding skills and problem solving through and with technology. Students use various types of technology and coding programs ranging from coding with physical tiles, to digital blocks and script writing.

For more information on Coding Counts and the Advancing Education priorities visit: <http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au/codingcounts/Pages/default.aspx>

Nyree Buchanan
Master Teacher

P&C News

Congratulations to our new executive committee for their recent appointments. Mrs Anna Horwell will continue her leadership as P&C President and is supported by Mirna Jacobsen as Vice President, Debi Watts as Treasurer and Anna Hetherington as Secretary.

One of the key funding priorities the P&C are looking at and hope to commence construction of this year is the air-conditioning of the school. This will commence in a staged project over a five year period. The first stage of the project has been is currently being prepared for costing, with a focus on our hottest block, A Block. The P&C will annually review funding availability and progress of each stage until all permanent buildings (A, B & Prep Blocks) are air-conditioned.

This project will be the major focus of the fundraising efforts for our P&C Association over the coming years and we thank the ongoing support of our community in contributing to not only the education, but learning environment of our students.

Mother’s Day Stall

Our Mother’s Day Stall will be held from 12:00pm to 1:30pm on Thursday 11 May in our hall. All classes will have time to purchase from the different stalls and can revisit during second break if they wish.

2017 school calendar Queensland state schools



DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017	FEBRUARY	MARCH
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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
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Advancing
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