



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

## Enjoying our Environment

Active and creative play is an important part of child development. It contributes to fine and gross motor development, greater socialisation, resiliency and conflict resolution. It is also lots and lots of fun.



Year 4 students investigated the physics of tunnel construction, while prep students are intrigued by the wonder of leaf that appeared to float in mid-air. The transparent spider web created many conversations and stimulated imagination and curiosity.



Our edible garden is growing and each week there is a new element for us to admire. Keep an eye out, there is lots to come.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Fri 9 Sept	Disco
Mon 12 Sept	Interschool Debating Day 2
Mon 12 Sept	Sherwood Arrows – Skipping Demo Team
Wed 14 Sept	P&C Meeting 3:00pm
Thurs 15 Sept	Kindy Buddy Program
Fri 16 Sept	Behaviour Celebration Day
<b>Saturday 17 September – Sunday 2 October: September School Holidays</b>	
Sat 1 Oct	Junior Aquathon
Sun 2 Oct	Agnes Water Triathlon
Mon 3 Oct	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 4 Oct	Term 4 Commences
Thurs 6 Oct	Mount Creek SHS Orchestra and Band Visit
Mon 10 – Fri 14 Oct	Year 6 Camp
Thurs 13 Oct	Mental Health Day P-5 Activities
Sat 15 Oct	Trivia Night – Tentative
Mon 17 Oct	<b>Student Free Day</b>
Mon 24 Oct	P&C Meeting
Thurs 20 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 21 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Tues 25 Oct	Prep Transition Day & Parent Information Session 8:40 – 11:00am
Thurs 27 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Fri 28 Oct	Life Education Unit Visit
Wed 9 Nov	Prep Transition Day & Parent Information Session 8:40 – 11:00am
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 – Year 6 only
Thurs 1 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Day 3 – Smart Pants Day Yr 6 only
Fri 2 Dec	Student Leadership Presentations
Fri 2 Dec	Year 6 Dinner
Wed 7 Dec	2016 Awards Night & Concert
Thurs 8 Dec	Report Cards Behaviour Celebration Day
Fri 9 Dec	Last Day of School

### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Schools continue to closely monitor enrolments each year, as our budget, facility maintenance and staffing is tied directly to our student enrolment. Since 2013, we have seen a steady decrease in enrolment, primarily due to an economic downturn in the area and employment opportunities not only in our town, but the Gladstone and Bundaberg areas. In 2017 we are anticipating one of our lowest enrolments in over 10 years, expecting 190 enrolments. This is almost half of our school enrolment from 2013.

This enrolment will have a significant impact upon our staffing, not only teachers, but teacher-aides and administration staff. It also impacts upon our school budget and our ability to commit financially to employing casual and contract staff. This further reduces our ability to subsidise events or run some extra-curricular activities.

The loss of enrolment reduces some of our flexibility in class development and student allocation and will see almost all classes running multi-age environments in 2017.

Based on our 2017 enrolment predictions, we will see a loss of up to three full time teacher positions and a reduction to 7 or 8 classes. We will see the loss of entitlement to a Head of Curriculum, a reduction in our Teacher Aide Hours to approximately 85 hours of support per week (1/3 of current support we are entitled to and supplement through school purchase) and a loss of administration hours in our office.

As we make plans for 2017, having accurate predictions of enrolments can be the difference of employment for staff and significantly impacts how settled the school year commences.

With your support, we were able to start the 2016 school year with a variation of only 2 enrolments from our predictions in 2015. This meant that our school was able to start on day 1, without any changes to our school structure as of day 8 (enrolment audit date). Shortly each family will be asked to complete an enrolment survey for 2017 to help our school ensure that our predictions are as accurate as possible. If after this date, circumstances change for families we ask that you contact our school as soon as possible.

Although the loss of enrolment will impact upon our school, we are always committed to delivering the best educational outcomes, and opportunities that we can for your children.

#### **School Expectations**

In our last newsletter, I shared our concern around an increase in physical behaviours at school. I am very pleased to say there has been a significant reduction in

these behaviours from students since last fortnight, down to just a few minor incidences. Thank you parents for your support of our school in discussing these behaviours and helping to ensure our school is a safe environment for all children.

#### **Behaviour Celebration Day**

Our Term Three Behaviour Celebration Day will be held on Friday 16 September. In keeping with global events, our celebration day will be a novelty Olympics with many fun and challenging individual and team events. We will hold a lower and upper event in the morning and middle sessions of the day. As always, our behaviour celebration days are a recognition of the students who continually model our school expectations. In determining participation, we take into consideration that children will be children and that they cannot always be perfect. However were a student has struggled to meet the expectations of the school and has continued to demonstrate repeat minor and major behaviours during term three, they will be provided a regular curriculum program during the period of activities. Letters of invitation will be sent home early next week, however as this activity is on site, no permission form is required to be returned.

#### **Student Leadership Selection for 2017**

We have begun our student leadership selection process in readiness for 2017 with Year 5 students currently showing their capacity to be outstanding role models for our school. A very large proportion of our Year 5's aspire to be leaders in 2017 and have already committed to the Kindy Buddy program. Over the next 10 weeks students in Year 5 will be observed closely for leadership, initiative and peer support in helping to determine our school captains and general school leaders. Applications for leadership positions for 2017 will be signed off by staff late Term 4.

### **GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **Disco**

Our final disco for 2016 will be held tonight in our hall. This disco is for our school children and younger siblings only. The night is broken into two time slots, 5:00pm to 6:15pm for our Prep to Year 2 students and younger siblings. 6:15pm to 7:30pm is for our Year 3 to Year 6 students. Please ensure you check in children at the door and check out upon departure.

Entry is a gold coin donation. A sausage sizzle, drinks and glow sticks will be on sale during the night. Parents are welcome to stay.

#### **Sherwood Arrows**

Our school has been offered the opportunity to have the Sherwood Arrows Skipping Demonstration team from Sherwood State School visit our school on Monday 12 September. The demonstration team will be at our

school from 8:45am to 9:30am and will be performing in the hall.

### **Mountain Creek State High School Orchestra and Band**

On Thursday 6 October, the Mount Creek State High School Orchestra and Band will be visiting our school and performing a range of hits and classical music with their orchestra, band and choral department. This group of students rank highly every year in fanfare competitions and it is a great opportunity to have such an awesome range of talent visit our school.

### **OptiMinds**

After one term of practice we finally went to Bundaberg to perform our Optiminds challenge at Shalom College.

We were excited and nervous. The challenge was to make a play about adaptation and change. We had Halle and Paige as dogs, and Darby as an alien that gave the dogs human characteristics. Lucinda and Darby were humans that became a bit like dogs. Saffron was the narrator. It was lots of fun. We had to make things out of recycled materials including our costumes. We were not allowed much help from teachers.

There was also a spontaneous challenge that was about a screwdriver. We had to think of another secret function for it, what it could do and who would use it.

We practiced a lot! Sometimes at first breaks and sometimes also in both breaks.

We would love to participate in Optiminds again. We thanks Miss Cook and Miss Harris for all their time.

Paige, Lucinda and Halle

### **Term 4 Return and Student Free Day**

Term 4 will recommence on Tuesday 4 October. Monday 3 October is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday. Please note that there is a student free day on Monday 17 October. On this day, staff from Rosedale, Wartburg, Winfield, Lowmead and Mirriam Vale will join our school in a cluster conference helping to build alignment in best practice across our entire schooling cluster.

### **Prep Transition**

Agnes Water State School has a proud history of providing education to the community of Agnes Water, 1770, Captain Creek and surrounding areas.

Our mission is to develop highly numerate, literate, confident and independent learners who are resilient and prepared for an ever-changing future.

An important part of this learning journey begins in Prep and our school recognises the importance of children feeling prepared for school and welcomed. At Agnes Water State School, we achieve this through several transition opportunities. Our Kindy-Buddy Program is well underway, where children from Agnes Water Childcare develop friendships with our future school leaders. We also open our doors to future children of our school through our Easter Bonnet Parade, Under 8's Day and formal transition visits.

Our Prep Transition Days will be held on;

Tuesday 25 October – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

Wednesday 9 November – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

Thursday 24 November – 8:40am to 11:00am (Prep Transition Day and Parent Information Session)

**Children attending these transition days must be accompanied by a parent or be with the Agnes Water Childcare.**

Enrolment packages for 2017 are now available from our school office.

### **Junior Landcare Grant Recipients**

Congratulations to Mrs Kate Lucas for her successful application for the Yates Junior Landcare Grant. Due to the hard work of Kate and her Year 2/3 class in designing an outstanding submission, we have received a \$500 Yates product voucher and \$1500 to be used in furthering our edible gardens. We are currently at stage one of this project, with stage two, the refurbishment and extension of our old tuckshop to take place from early November in readiness for 2017. This refurbishment will maximise the space available in the old tuckshop, provide a covered outdoor area, vertical garden and flexible work stations for students to be able to work outdoors or within the kitchen area.

### **Good Luck Debating Teams**

On Monday 12 September, nine of our students will represent our school for the very first time in a formal interschool debate. These students have participated in training sessions at Discovery Christian College and have been working towards their debate topics over the last few weeks. After a late change in topics, our students have developed some strong arguments for their topics and are ready to take on Rosedale and Mirriam Vale at Wartburg. Good luck to Axl, Jake, Dyllan, Ebony, Luca, Amy, Halle, Saffron and Paige.

## **HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS**

### **Sharing Best Practice**

In many of the previous newsletters we have talked a lot about ways we can motivate our children to improve their creative writing, as this is a major priority for our school. This does not mean that we have forgotten about all of other important areas – we work very hard to ensure that every minute we spend with our classes is spent improving and extending their progress – in every subject. The reading comprehension program we all adopt in our classrooms is based on the work of Sheena Cameron and is designed to teach the ways we can comprehend what we read. A student may be able to read fluently but this does not necessarily mean they can understand what they have read – which is the purpose of reading. Growing research shows that in order to have good understanding we need to ‘actively engage’ when we read. This just means that before, during and after reading we need to be thinking. We need to predict, ask questions, make connections, summarise, evaluate and more. One way at home that you can easily help your child improve their comprehension is by asking them to predict. As they read they will be actively thinking about whether or not their predictions match what the text is about, and this type of engagement is crucial for comprehension. Encourage them to say things like, “I think the book will be about....because.....” “From what I already know about.....I predict.....” Once they have read the book ask them to check if they were right.

### **School Holiday food for thought – life-long habits**

School holidays are nearly upon us and after a very productive and successful term it will be a great chance for our students to be able to learn to enjoy their own company as well as spending special time with you. As parents we have to find the balance between keeping our children occupied (and out of trouble!) and yet also being able to push through the feelings of being bored and be able to entertain and amuse themselves. When we hear them say they are bored we can use it as an opportunity to learn to push past the discomfort of feeling this way and practice a wonderful life-long habit of being able to occupy themselves. “In the quiet of reading a book, or building a model, or lying on the grass, they are engaging with their own thoughts. Even in the more energetic activity of endlessly trying to improve their basketball skills, they are engaged in self-speak. Thoughts about school, friends and parents pop in and out of their heads as regularly as the ball pops in and out of the basket.” Wilson McCaskill, Children Aren’t Made of China. Learning to be self-aware in this way, and enjoying their own company, helps children to deal with the hurts and upsets that may occur – and in turn builds their self-esteem.

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

Every single day we notice new and amazing things happening in our school garden. This is due to diligence and dedication of Jerry, our lovely groundsman, Miss Kate, our wonderful nature loving teacher and the Gardening Club. The special thing about a food garden in a school is that it draws people to it, and with that comes lots of tasting of herbs and tomatoes and much more. So many learning opportunities have been utilised and it has been a place in the sun for people to come and find a calm spot to think. Thank you to all involved for making our school even more rich and beautiful.



Please share what you see – we welcome feedback about your child’s education...email me at [ltank1@eq.edu.au](mailto:ltank1@eq.edu.au) so we can all benefit from the wealth of knowledge in this lovely community.

Yours in Learning,

Mrs Leigh Tankey

### **September P&C Meeting**

Our September P&C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 September at 3:00pm in the staffroom.



**Meals on Wheels**  
Discovery Coast & Surrounds

# FORMATION MEETING



**ALL  
WELCOME!**

15 September 2016  
Sandcastles Resort,  
Conference Room  
AGNES WATER  
6:30pm