

What's happening at AWSS

Mon 19 Feb	P&C Meeting 3:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs 22 Feb	CPR Awareness Year 5 & 6
Fri 23 Feb	Term 1 Student Leader Applications and Presentations. House Captain nominations due House Captain Elections
Wed 28 Feb	
Fri 2 Mar	Principal Conference
Fri 2 Mar	No Parade
Tues 6- Fri 9 Mar	Leadership Conference
Wed 7 Mar	Secondary School Readiness Program - Day 1
Mon 12 Mar	Academic Triathlon - Mathematics
Tues 13 Mar	Twilight PD Session Teachers
Thurs 15 Mar	Year 5/6 Art Excursion - Bundaberg
Fri 16 Mar	Mozzie's Monster Music Mix - School Performance Tours Parent Teacher Meetings
Mon 19 - Fri 23 Mar	
Tues 20 Mar	Prep Jeannie Baker Excursion
Wed 21 Mar	AFL District Boys Competition
Thurs 22 Mar	Final day of swimming for Year 1 - 3
Fri 23 Mar	Final day of sport for Year 4 - 6
Fri 23 Mar	Trivia Night (Proposed Date)
Thurs 29 Mar	Cross Country (Morning)
Thurs 29 Mar	Easter Bonnet Parade (Afternoon)
Fri 30 Mar - Mon 16 Apr	Easter Vacation
Tues 17 Apr	Term 2 commences
Tues 8 May	UNSW Digital Tech Competition
Tues 15 May	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
Wed 16 May	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
Thurs 17 May	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
Tues 22 May	Interschool Chess Comp
Tues 22 May	Secondary School Readiness Program - Day 2
Tues 29 May	UNSW Science Competition
Thurs 31 May	Bundaberg Show Holiday - School Closed
Wed 13 June	UNSW Spelling Competition
27/28 June	Athletics Carnival

SHAVE FOR A CURE

Seth Piers-Blundell and his father Shaun have been growing their hair long and raising funds for FUBraincancer.org. Seth shaved his head on parade, while Shaun shaved his beard with the help of Jasmine Rasmussen. Our school supported Seth in his fundraising efforts by holding a Crazy Hair day with some really wacky hairstyles. The school fundraiser contributed \$242 to Seth's already \$930 he had raised.



SCHOOL BANKING IS EVERY TUESDAY

From the Principal

Mr Trevor Buchanan

Thank you to the many parents who attended our parent information night on Wednesday 7 February. We had a great attendance at the general information session as well as the classroom sessions. During the general information session, I shared how our school is working towards giving parents additional information about their child's progress by looking at how we track and assess twelve months of growth for every child in a twelve month period, no matter their starting point. This is a huge piece of work for us and something that will take significant refinement over the next few years as we look at the tools we use to make judgements on student performance and their individual progress. We have started this process with a focus on reading and will move into writing and numeracy this year.

During the night, I also spoke about our agenda for this year, "Intentional, Justifiable and Consistent". This is a simple concept, but something that requires a large amount of professional learning for our teachers. Through this agenda, we want to ensure that we are not just implementing classroom practices because the school down the road has, but because the practices are well founded in research and have the evidence to support student improvement.

This has been a large part of our work for the last three years through our targeted intervention programs and pedagogical practices, now we sharpening the focus upon specific strategies and programs we run in the classroom.

Our commitment to professional learning doesn't stop at our teachers. Our leadership team has been invited to present in Melbourne from the 6 to 9 March, sharing our work around curriculum and inquiry processes. I have also been invited to participate in a world first program with our Principal's Association that over the next three years will result in me working towards and finalising an Educational Doctorate. I have also been recently selected to work with schools and universities in Singapore and Japan over the Easter School vacation as part of a two week intensive study tour looking at their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs and school leadership models. This follows Peta Swan's and Kate Lucas's selection into a study tour to Indonesia further fostering our sister school partnerships during the same period and our Master Teacher's work in connecting our school to Canada and NSW through our inquiry cycle process. The opportunities we have to connect with other schools on a national and global scale is an amazing way for our school to continue to grow.

I am Safe and I am Respectful

Schools are a place for children to learn and develop. This is evident in our school motto of Learn and Grow. Children in Primary School, particularly the early years are still developing their skills in problem solving conflicts and navigating the world of making friends. Often this leads to aggression and physical behaviours towards others as they struggle to deal with their emotions. While physical behaviours are common among very young children, often before commencing school in resolving conflict, in anger or frustration, some children take a lot longer to learn these boundaries. While, learning to resolve conflict in a non-violent way is developmental, there is no place for these behaviours in schools. There are consequences for all children who use physical behaviours in schools, however school responses are proportionate to the age of children and circumstances of each incident. Minimising physical responses to conflict is currently a focus for our school as physical behaviours is our highest student behaviour across the school at present.

Schools are often in a difficult position, as we have a responsibility of providing a safe and supportive environment for all children, but we are also a place of learning and development, socially as well as academically. Educating children that physical behaviours is not a solution requires a strong commitment from both parents and schools. The challenge that faces schools and parents, is becoming harder with the increase in accessibility for children to television shows or computer games depicting physical violence as the norm. Turn on most children's shows and there is always a show that involves some form of fighting. Watch any play by a group of young boys and they emulate these shows and play as characters in these shows. There is also an increasing prevalence and media publication of violence in our communities with figures released from White Ribbon Australia of 1 in 4 children being exposed to regular forms of aggression in the home environment, whether as a witness or as a victim.

At Agnes Water State School, two of our expectations of I am Safe and I am Respectful connect strongly with the message that physical harm is not okay. We help educate children about appropriate relationships, through our Health curriculum and the Respectful Relationships program which is a state wide program that builds upon skills from Prep. We also help children in understanding friendships and relationships with peers through the PALS program, Fun Friends and Unlimited programs. Our classes engage in weekly lessons around school expectations through our Positive Behaviour for Learning approach and in our upper school we also promote the safety messages of the One Punch Kills Campaign.

Parents can assist developing non-violent behaviours and resolutions to conflicts in their children through several ways;

- Give your children consistent love and attention
- Make sure your children are supervised
- Show your children appropriate behaviours by the way you act
- Be consistent about rules and discipline
- Keep violence out of your home
- Try to keep your children from seeing too much violence in the media

For more information, visit the American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/resist-violence.aspx>

Student Leadership

Our first student council meeting for 2018 will be held on Friday 23 February. The student council is in its infancy, but is becoming an important part of providing a student voice around school priorities, fundraising and activities for our students. Our student leaders form the student council with school captains and vice captains taking on executive positions.

Nominations by Year 6 students wishing to apply for student leadership this term must have their applications submitted by Friday 23 February. Our house captain elections will be held the following week on Wednesday 28 February. Only student leaders can apply for house captain positions. The best two candidates from each house will be elected into the house captain positions. This does not have to be a boy and a girl.

School Parades Week 6 & 7

Please be aware there will be no parades on Friday 2 March or Friday 9 March.

From the Head of Curriculum

Mrs Leigh Tankey

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 of this term to have time with your child's teacher in the Parent Teacher Meetings. 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 in the next couple of weeks.

Secondly, try to weave learning into your home life in a way that is fun. Enjoy reading with them – the town library has such a great range of books and magazines. 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 – a great way to pass time on car trips!

Read through the task sheets that are getting sent home to you 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. Discuss with them what they perceive to be the purpose of the assessment – this encourages deeper thinking and connections to the world for them. Our assessment is always linked to the Australian Curriculum and this is evident at the bottom of the task sheets. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have further questions about this.

“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 Ms Vicki Ladlow. During Semester 1 of each year, Ms Ladlow teaches the MUSIC strand of The Arts to our whole school. She dedicates her time to ensuring that our students are given a rich experience and it is clear from the excitement levels of the students that they are enjoying their learning. Students in the upper years are learning the ukulele and are very keen to keep learning outside the class time. What a gift for every child to learn an instrument. Thanks for your dedication Ms Ladlow – we appreciate you!

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.

General News

Health Notice

Agnes Water State School has been advised of confirmed cases of chicken pox in our school. The required exclusion period from Queensland Health are until all blisters have dried. In non-immunised children this is normally five days after the rash first appears, in immunised children this is often less. Any child with an immune deficiency or pregnant parents who are susceptible to infection are recommended to avoid contact.

Uniforms

There has been significant interest from parents in changing over to the new school uniform, considering we have a two year window to complete the change. This, along with a Prep enrolment almost doubled what was expected at the end of 2017 and has caught us a little off guard with our uniform stocks. Size four and sixes are now back in stock, however size eight’s are on back order and should arrive around the March 13. Sorry for an inconvenience the delays have caused.

Parents and Citizens Association

Our Parents and Citizens Association is an awesome way to be involved in our school and contribute to ideas, school direction and fundraising for our students. The P&C Association meets on the third Monday of each month in our staffroom from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Our next meeting will be on Monday 19 February.

Science

Thanks to everyone for the support shown to Science. I’ve had items of interest brought in for the day or to stay. It is appreciated.

I am after some pot plant pots – we have plenty of larger pots but I am chasing smaller ones about 100mm high and 50mm wide to use in plant growing experiments, but can take other smaller sized pots too. (Oddly enough, I gave a heap to Dale, the lady with the plant van, last year) Also needing soft drink bottles of 1 to 2 litres and smaller 250mL water/juice plastic bottles. Please save and send in if you use these items. Mr Hancock

Our School Captains

Hannah Carroll & Pearl Wilkinson

All eyes on me as I walked up on stage getting my badge presented to me, my legs began to fail, as I could not believe what was happening, I could not believe that I actually got school captain. As a round of applause began I was so proud of what I had done. This had been a goal of mine since grade three when I got the idea off my older sister who got school vice-captain. Getting this responsibility was a great honour as great things follow such as getting to help the Preps gain confidence and showing them how to behave in school, getting to help out by doing jobs, getting to represent our school at special events and getting to put great ideas in for fundraisers at meetings. I like to play with my horses, go to the beach with some friends and just be with friends in general. I am good at art and enjoy it loads as well as my amazing animals.

My name is pearl Wilkinson and I hope this inspires you do what you think what is right.



As I stood on the stage hearing my name being called out, it was the most exhilarating moment of my life. I swelled with happiness as I was handed my school captain badge. A round of applause shortly followed. It was my biggest goal and I felt incredibly proud of myself for achieving it. I now wear my school captain and student leader badge every day with pride. I am honoured to have the role of student leader and school captain and I no longer feel nervous when I do public speaking. Being school captain teaches me new lessons all the time.

I am from Toowoomba but I am now living in one of the most beautiful places in Australia after travelling around it for six months. I live with my mother, sister, brother and beloved puppy, Morris. I enjoy arts and crafts, singing, dancing and a lot of sports! I often walk down to the beach and I always have a great time with my family. I would like to be a forensic scientist in the future because getting school captain and student leader has proven to me that anything is possible.

I am Hannah Carroll and I hope you can follow your dreams, just like I did.