



Agnes Water News

1 June 2018

What's happening at AWSS

Tues 5 June	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Fri 8 June	Pyjama Disco
Wed 13 June	UNSW Spelling Competition
Thurs 14 June	UNSW Writing Competition
Tues 19 June	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Wed 27 June	Behaviour Celebration Day
Wed 27 June	Semester One Report Cards Released
Thurs 28 June	Athletics Carnival
Fri 29 June	Athletics Carnival
Sat 30 June - 15 July	Winter Vacation
Mon 16 July	Term 3 Commences
Wed 18 July	Prep Eye Screener
Tues 24 July	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Tues 31 July	UNSW English Competition
Tues 7 Aug	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Wed 8 Aug	Year 5 / Kindy Buddy Leadership Program Commences
Tues 14 Aug	UNSW Mathematics Competition
Mon 20 Aug	Aussie All Sorts - School Performance Tours
Tues 21 Aug	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Wed 22 Aug	Year 5 / Kindy Buddy Leadership
Mon 3 Sep	Academic Triathlon (Technology) TBC
Tues 4 Sep	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Wed 5 Sep	Kindy Transition Day 1
Tues 18 Sep	Year 6 Camp - Sausage Sizzle
Wed 19 Sep	Behaviour Celebration Day
Thurs 20 Sep	World of Maths
Fri 21 Sep	World of Maths

1770 Festival

Congratulations to the Agnes Water and 1770 communities for a fantastic festival. Our school float this year was a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour and fun.



School Attendance

Our current attendance rate: 92.18%

Our 2018 target: 94%

SCHOOL BANKING IS EVERY TUESDAY

From the Principal

Mr Trevor Buchanan

Awesome Team

2018 has been a cracker of a year so far for our school, with the highest participation of students in school and community events such as ANZAC Day and the 1770 Festival, excellent performance on the sporting field and academically, and one of our best attendance rates. This comes down to our awesome team of students, parents and staff, and the shared commitment to making our school a great place to learn. I was amazed at how many students and parents joined us for the 1770 Festival, with 110 students in this year's float. Mrs Heenan did an amazing job coordinating the float this year and this has resulted in our school taking out the People's Choice Award.

The festival was followed by our Under 8's day. This was a great morning of hands on learning and creative play for our Prep to Year 2 students and the visiting children to our school. Thanks Mrs Hancock for your coordination of this morning.

We have several more exciting events coming up over the coming weeks, including our Pyjama Disco on Friday 8 June, Behaviour Celebration Day on Wednesday 27 June and our Athletics Carnival on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 June. I look forward to seeing many of our families at these events.

School Annual Report

Our 2017 Annual Report is now available from our school website. Hard copies are also available from our school office upon request.

Car Parking

A reminder that parent car parking on the school grounds is only permitted on the dirt section prior to the tennis court. Parent vehicles are not to be parked further into the school. Students are also not allowed in this area without adult supervision. This is not a stop, drop and go facility and students must be escorted by parents in this area at all times.

Bike Helmets

Thank you parents for helping ensure students are travelling to and from school with helmets on their heads. I am pleased that I have not had to remind any students about this over the last two weeks and students are making a concerted effort to walk from the front gate to the cross over point.

Transitions through Schooling

Our Year 6 students had an awesome day at Rosedale on Tuesday 22 May, meeting with the Army Cadet unit, engaging in a Secondary School HPE class (including archery) and participating in a session with CQU, while running on a Secondary School timetable. The secondary school readiness program will continue in term three and four.

Our Year 5 students wishing to be student leaders in 2019 will begin their role as Kindy Buddies in Term 3 to support the transition of future Prep students into our school. Students will participate in a fortnightly program visiting the Kindy and working with the Prep students when they visit our school later in Term 3 and Term 4.

Prep Eyesight Screener

On Wednesday 18 July (first Wednesday of Term 3) there will be a Prep Eye Screener run by Queensland Health at the school. Permission forms were sent home two weeks ago. Please ensure these are returned by no later than Friday 15 June.

Conflict and Bullying

The words Bully and Bullying are used very openly these days and is often the first word that is used by children and adults when a child experiences a conflict, or when they don't agree with what others are saying.

Bullying is defined as an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).

Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying. While behaviours such as mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance), not liking someone or an act of social rejection, one-off acts of meanness or spite and isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence can be upsetting and still need to be resolved, they do not form bullying.

Our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students outlines the behaviour expectations in our school and some of the range of strategies and consequences that can be used to support and reinforce these expectations. Research shows that through a continued school wide focus on school expectations, direct teaching of behaviour expectations and development of support programs for all students, we can significantly reduce the occurrence of bullying.

While it is very important to listen to children when they are upset and want to talk, it is important to ask questions like how often has this happened, how did they try to solve the problem, did they report it to someone that could assist? In our school we use the high five, which is five simple steps to help in preventing, managing and reporting conflict. These are; Talk Friendly (make sure you are not contributing to the conflict), Talk Firmly (make it clear you don't like the behaviour that is being demonstrated), and do these three together, walk away (remove yourself from the situation), ignore (don't react to the behaviour – remember that often conflict and bullying is about power and reaction) and tell someone who can help (make sure you do this as soon as possible).

Importance of returning permission forms by the due date

Recently we have had several activities where students have returned permission forms on the day of an event, not by the due date. It is critical in our organisation that permission forms and money are returned by the due date to ensure that we have satisfactorily catered for supervision ratios, provided adequate transport, prevents disappointment for children when they are told they cannot attend and meets our audit requirements. Please note that due to the increasing trend of non-returned forms, late forms and money, **we will no longer be accepting late permissions, verbal permissions or payment and class teachers will not be ringing to chase individual permissions on the day of an event. It is also important that any money provided to the office is returned in a sealed envelope or zip lock bag with student name and activity clearly labelled.** Information about coming events are published in our newsletter and in every activity we attempt to ensure a minimum of two weeks of notice (where possible). We provide multiple reminders to students at school and often reminders are provided by email.

Tuckshop Volunteers

Thank you greatly to the parents who have been able to assist with our tuckshop over the last few weeks. We are still seeking volunteers to assist, particularly on a Friday which is our busiest order day. If you are able to assist, please email pandc@agnewatess.eq.edu.au or come in and see Deb in the tuckshop.

Dogs on school grounds

It is a reminder that dogs are not permitted on school grounds without prior consent of the Principal. This includes during after school activities, pick up and drop off.

From the Head of Curriculum

Mrs Leigh Tankey

Handy questions when reading...

Sitting down to read with, or to your child from a very early age is proven to enhance their literacy skills and learning. We understand how hectic things can sometimes 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 children 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, promoting opportunity for your child to build connections with others.



Life-long Learning

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.” One of the greatest strengths in our school is that children are given such a wealth of opportunity to try things they may not have – from trying out for the AFL team and experiencing the pride of representing our school in chess, or marching in a street parade playing a ukulele or dressed as a crab. It is good to try new things and experience the self-confidence and pride that comes from this. Thank you to everyone in this lovely school community who offers so many great experiences for our children.

Chess Success!

Tenacious, tireless and team players – these are all the ways I could describe each and every member of the Agnes Water State School chess team at their tournament in Bundaberg last Tuesday. Our team of 10 played each of their eight games with sportsmanship and style. They looked after each other and were genuinely happy when their team mates had a win, even if they themselves did not. This team had the most success at any chess tournament we have been too, with three members of our team receiving a merit ribbon. To get a merit you have to score 5 out of 8 - you get 1 point for a win, half a point for a draw. Jacob, Haiden and Sam all earned a merit and there were a couple of members in our team who were only a point or half a point away. Special thanks to Jerry – our chess advisor and mentor, for encouraging us and asking us questions to help us think outside the box. We appreciate you.

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

This week I am celebrating the dedication and efforts of Mrs Cathy Hancock – teacher of our lovely year one students. Students in this class are always immersed in rich language experiences and are developing some great literacy skills. Through a wide variety of teaching strategies Mrs Hancock ensures that learning is relevant and fun. Special thanks also for organising such a fun and memorable Under Eight’s Day on Monday. There were so many smiling faces and happy children. Thanks Mrs Hancock, we appreciate you!

Please share what you see as you walk around our lovely school...email me at ltank1@eq.edu.au so we can keep ensuring that our children flourish.

General News

1770 Art Show

Students in Year 5/6H were responsible for creating this year's Large Canvas Project entry for the 1770 Art Show. The theme this year was mammals. Our model, Bella, was just the right size to fit her life-sized silhouette on the canvas. The collage was then covered with hundreds of tiny pictures of Australian and ocean mammals that had been painstakingly cut out by the class.

Our hard work has been rewarded by all the lovely, positive comments received from the public and our canvas is now heading overseas to go on display at our sister school in Java.

While the whole class contributed to the artwork in some way, I would like to focus my thanks on a number of wonderfully dedicated students who eagerly spent every spare minute (and a few lunch times) volunteering to complete the huge artwork. These students are patient, kind, creative, multi-talented (they can dance, sing AND glue at the same time!) and a whole lot of fun. You know who you are, thanks girls!

Ms Hartley



YEAR 6 CAMP FUNDRAISERS

Sausage Sizzle



On Tuesday 5 June and Tuesday 19 June, the student leaders will be running a sausage sizzle at school at 1st break to raise funds for school camp. It will be a simple sausage and white bread with sauce for \$2.00. Students can come to The Kitchen at eating time to buy their sausage on bread. This will be held every even week Tuesday during Term 3 as well.

Hair Colour and Coloured Zinc

On the morning of the Athletics Carnivals, Year 6 will be providing hair colour and zinc for a gold coin. This will be set up on the grass beside the undercover area from 8:15am to 8:40am on both mornings.



PYJAMA DISCO

The Agnes Water P&C Association will be holding a Pyjama Disco on Friday 8 June at our school hall for students of Agnes Water State School.

Prep to Year 2: 5:00pm to 6:15pm

Year 3 to Year 6: 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Entry: Gold Coin

What to wear: Come in your winter PJ's.

A sausage sizzle, drinks and chips will be on sale during the evening.

This is a no pass out event. Parents must check students in and out.

Younger non-school aged siblings are welcome with parent supervision.

