

What's happening at AWSS

Mon 19 - Fri 23 Mar	Parent Teacher Meetings
Mon 19 Mar	P&C AGM
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
Thurs 22 Mar	Student Council Meeting
Fri 23 Mar	Final day of sport for Year 4 - 6
Sat 24 Mar	Queen's Baton Relay - Agnes Water
Wed 28 Mar	Behaviour Celebration Day
Wed 28 Mar	Year 1 Author Visit Excursion
Thurs 29 Mar	Cross Country (Morning)
Thurs 29 Mar	Easter Bonnet Parade (Afternoon)
Fri 30 Mar	Good Friday
Fri 30 Mar - Mon 16 Apr	Easter Vacation
Tues 17 Apr	Term 2 commences
Wed 25 Apr	ANZAC Day
Thurs 3 May	AFL District Girls Competition
Mon 7 May	Labour Day Public Holiday
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
Fri 25 May	1770 Festival Re-enactment
Sat 26 May	1770 Festival Street Parade
Sat 27 May	1770 Festival Fun Run
Tues 29 May	UNSW Science Competition
Wed 30 May	AFLQ Schools Cup - Childers
Thurs 31 May	Bundaberg Show Holiday - School Closed
Wed 13 June	UNSW Spelling Competition
27/28 June	Athletics Carnival

Science is awesome!

Students have become very intrigued in the natural world and many insect specimens have been brought into the classroom from excited students. Recently our students had the opportunity to witness the hatching of a sempronius butterfly.

The Year 1 class have also been exploring our natural past with an inquiry into Dinosaurs. Students were involved in making replica models exploring their features.



School Attendance

Congratulations everyone! We have reached our highest attendance rate ever.

Our current attendance rate: 93.5%

Our 2018 target: 94%

SCHOOL BANKING IS EVERY TUESDAY

AWSS P&C AGM MONDAY 19 MARCH

3:00PM STAFFROOM

From the Principal

Mr Trevor Buchanan

I was very saddened last weekend to find our first case of vandalism to our school property in many years. Over the weekend, we had one of our steel AFL posts snapped off at its base and an attempt to break our senior soccer goals and one was thrown over the fence. This incident has been referred to Queensland Police and any information that the community has about this damage can be provided to the school or to the Agnes Water Police Station. **It is a timely reminder that access to the school grounds and facilities must be sought from the school prior to use** and children are not permitted onto school grounds outside of school hours unless part of an approved group program and under supervision of an adult. Suspicious activities around the school can be reported to School Watch on phone: **131 788**.

It is also a reminder that our school does not provide supervision for children participating in after school activities on the school grounds. Students attending or waiting for these programs are to be waiting at the area of the program and not wandering the school or playing on the playgrounds. Students waiting for after school activities must demonstrate our school's behaviour expectations while on school grounds.

On a more positive note, I am excited that a very large percentage of our students will be participating in our behaviour celebration day for Term 1. Behaviour Celebration days are our school's way of rewarding students who continue to demonstrate our school's expectations or have shown significant improvement in behaviour choices over the term. These days form a key part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning strategy. This term we have several activities happening at our school on Wednesday 28 March. There are some details that are currently being finalised, but the day is hoped to involve a range of circus and gymnastic skills. Student permissions and invitations will be sent home by Monday 26 March. All costs for this term's activities are covered by the school.

Student Free Day Monday 16 April

Monday 16 April is a Student Free Day for State School's in Queensland. This is due to the Commonwealth Games and the use of buses from around the state to provide transportation for the games. Please note that our staff will not be on site on this day. The first day of school for students for Term 2 will be Tuesday 17 April.

Parent Teacher Meetings

This week our school is holding our parent-teacher meetings. Bookings for this week have now closed. Parents who have forgotten to make appointments, can contact the school and individual teachers will get back in contact with parents to arrange a time that will likely be held in Term 2.

P&C Association

Our Annual General Meeting for the P&C Association will be held on Monday 19 March at 3:00pm in the staffroom. Nominations are currently being accepted for all executive positions of Treasurer, Secretary and President. Please submit any expressions of interest to our school office prior to Monday 19 March. The P&C Association is a valuable way for parents to contribute to the operation and direction of our school. Through the work of the P&C association our school has also commenced the process of air-conditioning all of our facilities. In the next few weeks we will be going to tender for air-conditioning of our Library and B Block meaning these facilities will be ready for the end of the school year.

Uniforms

Students were provided pre-orders for school jumpers this week. Families requiring school jumpers are required to have the pre-order returned to the school office by the end of week 9. It is a reminder that the only colour jumpers that can be worn are navy blue. While a jumper with school logo is not required, students are not to wear jumpers with other logos, patterns, colours or designs. Navy blue is a common colour school jumper provided at most major retail outlets and can usually be purchased between \$10 and \$20.

From the Head of Curriculum

Mrs Leigh Tankey

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.

Pathways for Learning

When we think about how we learn, and the strategies we use to learn, we make improvements and progress. Being aware of all of the different ways we learn can ensure that we persist even when it is uncomfortable and hard, knowing that with enough repetition and practice we will move past that.

This week our 5/6 class watched the following link about how our brain makes pathways that become stronger when used regularly, and learnt how when we are learning something new it can often feel difficult and frustrating – but that it won’t always be like that. Take a quick minute to watch the clip if you are interested and have a chat with your child about what this means to them and the way they approach learning.

http://learningandtheadolescentmind.org/resources_02_learning.html

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

This week I am celebrating the hard work and dedication of Miss Kate. Her passion for growing food and teaching children combine to have wonderful results for her students in year 2/3. She uses the garden as a classroom and the rewards for the children are many. Her sense of wonder and sense of humour make for deep learning experiences and lifelong lessons. Thanks Miss Kate, 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.

Yours in Learning,
Mrs Leigh Tankey

General News

Academic Triathlon

The first round of the 2018 Academic Triathlon was held on Monday 12 March at Agnes Water State School. 21 teams from Year 4 to Year 8 from our cluster of schools, participated in the competition. It was a great morning, with leaders in each division swapping regularly after most rounds, making the competition a very tight event. I am really proud of our teams, with a second place in the Senior Primary division.

Bush Turkeys

Our school's AFL team, the Bush Turkeys are into their preparations for this year's district competition. On Wednesday 21 March our boys' team will be competing in Bundaberg for a chance to compete in the regional competition. Our girls' team will compete in early Term Two with dates still to be advised. Boys that have been training with Mr Gourlay will be provided permission forms and additional information over the next few days.

Cross Country

Our last day of Term 1, Thursday 29 March, is planned to be a very exciting day with our annual Cross Country being held in the morning from 9:00am to 11:00am. Students have commenced their training for the Cross Country during HPE and in their individual classes. For most of our students in Year 3 to Year 6, part of their course is outside of the school grounds, travelling on the footpath down Donohue Drive to the Police Station, up to the Skate Park and then back into the school. During the next two weeks, students will walk this course with their classes, but regular course training will only be held in the school grounds. **Please note that no parking on the dirt section of the staff carpark will be available on Thursday 29 March. Our school gates will be closed from 8:00am until the end of the cross country. Flow of traffic in front of the school from 9:00am to the end of the cross country will be managed by school staff to prevent vehicle movement in this area while students are participating in the cross country.**

Easter Bonnet Parade

Our Prep to Year 3 students will participate in an Easter Bonnet parade at our school hall from 2:15pm on Thursday 29 March. Students are working on Easter Bonnets as part of their class work.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who sent in plastic bottles and pots for Science. We are right for milk bottles and soft drink bottles but still need the smaller juice/water bottles. Thanks particularly to George Spiteri for a substantial number of smaller pot plant pots we were chasing. From Mr Hancock

District Tennis Trials

Congratulations to Maxi Wood, Marc Lumagbas-Smith, Lachlan Buchanan and Ari McCollum for their representation of our school at the Bundaberg District trials. All boys represented our school well, with many tight matches. A huge congratulations to Maxi Wood for his selection into the district team.

Queen's Baton Relay – Commonwealth Games

The Queen's Baton Relay is coming through Agnes Water on Saturday 24 March. Mia Poustie was nominated by to represent our school as part of the baton relay and will run her leg of the journey along Agnes Street towards the beach at 1:41pm. Come along and cheer on Mia and the other local legends who are running.

School Sports

Friday 23 March is our final day for school sports for Term 1. We are currently looking at the availability of holding catch up sessions at the start of Term 2 for the missed sport rounds due to weather. If this is not possible, a refund of cancelled programs will be provided to parents.

Swimming

Thursday 22 March is our last day for swimming for this year. The last session will consist of final checks of progress and a range of fun novelty activities for each group. Please remember to send your child's swimmers, with swimming cap and rashie on Thursday. Parents are also requested to ensure that any last payments for swimming are finalised on Thursday.

Our House Captains

Hi everyone my name is Holly Collins and I was elected as a Rays House Captain for 2018. The reason why I wanted to be a house captain is because I know I will encourage all younger and older students to do their best and even if we don't win it doesn't matter because we should all be grateful that we tried our best. I am looking forward to getting to know every little 'rayling' in Rays. I am super excited to work with my fellow house captain.



Hello my name is Tarnee. I am one of the Rays House Captains for 2018. I have been at this school since 2012 and I love it. This is the best thing that has happened to me throughout these years and I can't wait until cross-country and athletics day. My favourite thing about being house captain is so that I can lead Rays to be confident, happy, kind, caring and encouraging everyone to do their best. Holly and I will make a great team as we work together to lead Rays. I believe that Rays can win this year so GO RAYS!



Alannah is away this week so I'm going to tell you a little bit about her and why she wanted to be a house captain. Alannah has achieved one of her personal goals since she was very little. This is a very big opportunity for her and I know that she is very proud to call herself house captain because of all the amazing things she gets to do for her team such as help them if they are down about losing a race and encouraging them to get back on their feet and regaining the spirit to try again next year instead of being scared to. When she is at home she enjoys doing stuff like going down to the beach with she does quite often mostly after school though, being with her friends and loves horses. She LOVES being house captain and cannot wait for sports day and cross country this year.
From Pearl Wilkinson



Hi my name is Marc Smith. I started at Agnes Water State School at the age of 5 and I've been at Agnes Water State School for 6 years. I am a very active person and very social. I recently became student leader at AWSS and that was the hardest thing of my life to stand up on stage and say a speech in front of almost 250 people! But in the end I made it. But then another opportunity hit me I could become house captain! I could feel leading my team stingers to victory and guess what we had do another speech except it wasn't that bad because I was confident enough to stand in front of my team stingers and they would support me all the time. The moment sitting on a chair waiting to see if your name would be called and there were only two spots so I was hoping that I would get it. Alannah was called first "and the second person for stingers is... Marc!" my heart eased and I was filled with excitement and pleasure because my dream of being house captain became true.



Hello everyone, if you do not know me my name is Amanda Ray and I am house captain for Sharks for 2018. I have been going to Agnes Water State School for 7 years. My brothers wanted to be a house captain but did not get it. The reason I wanted to get house captain is because I want to encourage kids to be a great team member of sharks. I am looking forward to being the sharks house captain because I encourage and bring the sharks spirit to life. I am looking forward to being your Sharks house captain for 2018 and don't forget to try your best it does not matter if you come first or last, just try your best.



Hello parents, caregivers and students I am Lachlan Buchanan, with Amanda, I am one of the 2018 house captains for Sharks. I have always loved this school from its beautiful nature to its classrooms and teachers. I have always had a passion for sports, mainly tennis but you don't have to be good at the selected sport to be a great house captain or team member of Sharks – it's all about the Sportsmanship and I am proud to be a Sharks house captain. Sharks are an amazing team and while it has been a while since we won a sports carnival, I believe this year is our year to win sports day and cross country.

