



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative



### Interschool Soccer

Year 4-6 Students competed in the very first Agnes Water State School and Discovery Coast Christian College Soccer Carnival. Our students were full of team spirit and were always on the attack.



### SCHOOL BANKING

Don't forget school banking is every Tuesday.



Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
Mon 12 Oct – Fri 16 Oct	Year 6 Camp
Fri 16 Oct	No School Sports today
Mon 19 Oct	Student Free Day
Mon 19 Oct	P&C Meeting
Thurs 22 Oct	Kindy Buddy Visit
Thurs 22 Oct	Parent Curriculum Workshop
Fri 23 Oct	Interschool Spelling Comp
Fri 23 Oct	No Parade Today
Fri 23 Oct	Sports Recommence to Week 9.
Tues 27 Oct	Prep Transition Morning
Fri 30 Oct	World Teachers Day
Mon 2 Nov	Wadjiny School Performance Tour
Tues 3 Nov	PIRLS Year 4 International Assessment
Wed 4 Nov	Prep Transition Morning
Fri 6 Nov	Year 5 School Leadership Nominations Due
Tues 10 Nov	Principal Meeting
Wed 11 Nov	Principal Meeting
Wed 11 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade
Thurs 12 Nov	Prep Transition Morning
Fri 13 Nov	P&C Student Disco
Mon 16 Nov	P&C Meeting
Wed 18 Nov	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Display 9:30am – 11:00am
Mon 30 Nov	Year 6 Dinner (tentative date)
Tues 1 Dec	Year 6 High School Experience Day
Tues 1 Dec	Prep Book Launch
Thurs 3 Dec	Year 6 High School Experience Day 2
Wed 9 Dec	School Awards & Concert Night
Thurs 10 Dec	Celebration Day & Room clean
Thurs 10 Dec	Report Cards Sent Home
Fri 11 Dec	Final Day for 2015

### Dragon Boating

Our first ever group of students participated in Dragon Boating last Friday for school sports. Thanks to Angie and the team at 1770 Dragon Boating.

### **From the Principal**

Welcome back to our final 10 school weeks of 2015. The year is disappearing very quickly, but as you can see by our calendar, we have many events and activities still to happen before the end of the school year. The list for our staff is twice as long as we prepare for end of year reporting and assessment collections. The month of November is very important for our school data collections as this is the time of the year that we conduct many of our formal diagnostic tests that allow us to look at distance travelled for our individual students. It also assists our teachers at the commencement of the school year in providing immediate differentiation, support and extension for our students.

This term our Year 6 students are busy readying for transition into High School and we will be running several days this term for High School Experience at Rosedale P-12 school. These days are for all of our Year 6 students and provide them a general look at the types of programs they will be involved in for Secondary School no matter the school they end up attending. Two of these days will be held in the second last week of the term while a third day is planned for the middle of this term, where students will work with the University of Central Queensland to supporting their transition into Secondary Schools.

We will also be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this term with a display and morning tea in our Hall on Wednesday 18 November from 9:30am to 11:00am. Each of our classes are contributing display items for the things that have changed in our community over the last 25 years. During the morning, we will have a small presentation from each of our classes, adding items to a new time capsule. This special morning is open to all community members to join us as we celebrate 25 years of Education in Agnes Water. Keep an eye out for further advertisements in the Local Rag.

Not only will we be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 18 November, but we will be launching our Strategic Plan for the next three years on this day. Our strategic plan is a culmination of nine months worth of data collection from parent, staff and student feedback, external reviews of the school and analysis of student performance data. One of the continuing items that has appeared in feedback from students and parents is around the communication of our assessment processes and expectations. Already this term, parents may have started receiving copies of task sheets and guides to making judgements for our major assessment pieces in our classrooms. As a staff we have been working together to build a common structure to these from Prep to Year 6. We won't send every assessment task sheet home, but we

will communicate home the major assessments that your child is working on in class. These will come home at the start of a unit of work, or when students are first introduced to the assessment. Parents are asked to take the time and read these assessments and return these signed to your child's class. The task sheets are broken into two sections. The top section is information for our students. It tells them why, what and how to complete the assessment. The bottom section is for teachers and parents, and will provide the links for this assessment to the Australian Curriculum and outline the elements for the Year Level Achievement Standard that are being examined. This is one of the many ways this year we have been working on building our communication home to parents and will hopefully assist with parent queries around what we are working towards in our classrooms.

Our Term will finish with a great celebration of student achievement. On Wednesday 9 December we will be holding our Awards Night. This year our Awards Night will be held in the **Community Hall** with a program commencing at 5:45pm. The awards night will be a combination of awards and entertainment from our classes. Our award winning students will not be announced before the evening and will be a surprise to students and parents on the night. The following morning we will be holding our final behaviour celebration for 2015 with a morning at the beach consisting of beach games, swimming and picnic. Our criteria for participation in this morning remains the same with expectations for students to demonstrate appropriate behaviours in and out of the classroom. Students will return to school for the afternoon session to finish the pack up of their classrooms and receive their report cards.

The last day of school will be spent moving furniture in readiness for 2016 as we have several classroom changes that will be taking place.

### **Student Free Day**

Teachers are the greatest impact to our student's educational outcomes outside of the home. It is therefore important that our staff sustain their currency of practice, continually update skills and look at best practice in instruction. To support this, all State Schools in Queensland will be holding a Student Free Day on Monday 19 October (Monday of week three). This is the only Student Free Day each year that is held during school term. Most other professional development takes place in our teachers' own time. On Monday 19 October, our school staff will be looking at our whole of school culture as well

as our practices in writing and numeracy. School culture is just as important for our school to develop as the curriculum and pedagogy knowledge of our teachers.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance at school is very important as this can be one of the most significant impacts on student outcomes. Also being on time has a long term impact. Just 10 minutes per day late to school equates to 6 full school days absence per year.

Our goal for whole of school attendance is 94% attendance over the year, however we are currently sitting on 91% with Fridays being our lowest attendance rate with some Friday's being less than 75% attendance. While approximately 50% of our student absences are appropriately due to illness, there is a large percentage of absences that are unexplained or unsuitable reasons for absence.

Your assistance in having students at school each day and ready for an 8:40am commencement helps in providing greater educational outcomes for your children.

### **Class appointments for 2016**

Many thanks to all of our families for providing advice on your child's enrolment at Agnes Water in 2016. We are anticipating an enrolment of 203 students to commence our school year. This is a drop in 50 enrolment from the start of 2015 and will have an impact upon our staffing models for next year. As a school we are committed to providing the best educational outcomes for our students no matter the size of our enrolments. One of our goals for 2016 is to reduce the overall size of each of our classes. We will be doing this by changing some of our teaching roles across the school and committing allocations to increase the number of classes available. While we will be officially funded for 8 classes next year, we are aiming to start the school year with 9 classes utilising various funding models to support this school structure. In making decisions around class enrolments, we will be looking at social mixes, student achievement and class teacher history. Working towards 9 classes will lead to an overall reduction in class sizes with a target for most of our early year classes to be between 20 and 22 enrolment and our upper classes between 24 – 26 enrolment. This planning also allows for changes in enrolment throughout the year keeping our classes under the target sizes of 25 for P-3 and 28 for Year 4-6.

At this point in time, most of our classes will be multi-age as this provides significant opportunities for differentiation of student learning.

Please be aware that teacher and class placement requests are not an option for 2016 as previously advised on the survey in Term 3, unless due to family reasons ie. separation of siblings, however we will always aim to provide a balance of teachers and classroom mixes for your child over the course of their education at Agnes Water State School.

### **Sport**

Our Term 4 Sport program commenced on Friday with Dragon Boating and Enviro Activities offered for the very first time. Both of these programs have received great interest from our students. A reminder that there is no sport this Friday 16 October. Sport will resume on the 23 October and will run to week 9 of this term. A reminder that swapping sports will not be allowed and students are required to cover the full cost of their sport activity by the end of the term.

### **HOC News**

#### **Australian Curriculum Update**

At Agnes Water State School we value the strength of the relationship between parents and school. We are excited to offer a workshop for parents that answers your questions about the way we teach the Australian Curriculum in our lovely school. We have had a few parents interested and if you are unable to attend, but have questions, I am more than happy to have a chat and make a time that suits you. The workshop is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 1:45 – 2:30 and will finish in time for you to pick up your children. Please come and sign in at the office and I will meet you there. We will be discussing how we make the choices about what we teach so that it is relevant to your child and the curriculum. We will answer questions about how we keep track of your child's progress and what you can do at home if you would like to help. Please feel free to send me an email or call with your feedback. Big thanks to those parents who have already let me know your ideas and questions.

#### **Science Curriculum**

At the start of the year we made a commitment to parents to create a whole school curriculum plan using research based programs and engaging contexts for our students. The latest subject we have completed this process with is Science. Our school has purchased some high quality, hands on kits and unit books for every year level called Primary Connections. These kits will ensure that teachers are able to create engaging, practical lessons which will see students understanding and applying the science of many elements such as using magnets to create games, germinating seeds and using knowledge about the life cycle of plants to work in our school garden, and much, much more. Purchasing these resources means that every teacher and student has access to interactive, purposeful and fun activities with direct link to the Australian Curriculum.

### **School Leadership**

Over the course of the year our year five students have been preparing to apply to become the leaders of our students in 2016. After much collaboration between students and staff, as well as feedback from previous parents, we have re-designed to leadership application process to ensure that students are very clear about the behaviours and qualities of a leader. As each year five student demonstrates a particular leadership quality they can ask an adult in the school to sign them off. They need to display this quality consistently and continue to display it after they have achieved the goal. The qualities of the leader that we are expecting are aligned to our four school values – I am SAFE, I am a LEARNER, I am RESPONSIBLE, I am RESPECTFUL. The elements of these values are also explicitly taught in class and link to our year five Health curriculum in the following ways: Practise skills to establish and manage relationships ([ACPPS055](#)), [Examine](#) the influence of emotional responses on behaviour and relationships ([ACPPS056](#)), [Recognise](#) how media and important people in the community influence personal attitudes, beliefs, decisions and behaviours ([ACPPS057](#))

Congratulations to the year five students for their dedication to this leadership process.

### **Professional Development**

Each Wednesday afternoon teachers work together after school to collaboratively plan and support each other in the creation of assessment tasks and units of work. This is one of the best forms of professional development that we can engage in and it further reinforces the massive wealth of knowledge that exists right here in this school.

A big thank you to everyone involved in these planning sessions – the dedication to continual improvement is inspiring – and our students keep reaping the rewards of this professionalism.

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

This week I am celebrating the dedication and efforts our Master Teacher, Tarnia Doughty. Each week Miss Doughty works tirelessly to support teachers in their classroom delivery and is always available to assist with planning and ideas. Her role is an important part of our team as she is able to assist us to put the latest teaching research into practice.

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

Yours in Education,  
Mrs Leigh Tankey  
Head of Curriculum

## **General News**

### **Transition into Prep**

Over the next month we will be extending our transition programs for Prep for 2016. We will be running three morning sessions in Term 4 from 8:40 to 11:00am. These transition mornings will be held Tuesday 27 October, Wednesday 4 November and Thursday 12 November. The Agnes Water Kindy will again be joining us for these mornings and Preps for 2016 that are not attending Kindy are highly encouraged to attend.

**It is a legal requirement that all children are accompanied by a parent for the duration of their attendance at school or are under the supervision of a Kindy program.** On each of these days in Term 4, we will be running parent information sessions and offering morning tea for parents who are attending with their child. This will give parents an opportunity to meet with key school staff, find out about our expectations and what occurs in Prep. This will also give our school staff an opportunity to see how our future prep children interact and operate without their parent directly supervising.

In addition to our future Preps coming to visit us, we will be continuing our offer opportunities for our possible future school leaders in Year 5 to show their potential through a buddy program with the Kindy. Our next visit to the Kindy is Tuesday 22 October.

### **Early Entry into Prep**

The processes for early entry into Prep for 2016 have been streamlined across the state, however at this point in time, Early Entry is still a possibility for children who are born between 30 June 2011 and 31 July 2011. For more information please view the information available on Education Queensland's website: <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/school-operations/early-delayed-entry-prep.html> .

# 2016 school calendar

## Queensland state schools



<p><b>DECEMBER 2015</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2016</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>31 1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>31 1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>
<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>30 31 1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2017</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>  School terms   School holidays   Public holidays   Staff professional development day   Flexible staff professional development day                 </p>	

There are 194 school days in 2016. Semester 1 2017 commences for teachers on January 19 and for students on January 23.

### STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are January 21-22, April 6-8, and October 17. 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 18 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 25 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 2.

*The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (July 2015) but may be subject to change.*

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)

