



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative



## Commemorating Remembrance Day

Our school leaders represented our school with pride on Wednesday 11 November both at the community Remembrance Day and our own school Remembrance Day Parade. Thank you to our students and staff for their reflection and respectfulness on the day. Our ceremony was made even more special with the use of our new memorial stone that was installed this term by the Agnes Water RSL Sub Branch. Students made wreaths of poppies in their classes and laid these on our new memorial as a sign of respect.



Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
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
Tues 24 Nov	Volunteers Morning Tea
Fri 27 Nov	Nude Food Day
Mon 30 Nov	Year 6 Dinner
Tues 1 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Program at Rosedale P-12.
Tues 1 Dec	Prep Book Launch
Thurs 3 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Program at Rosedale P-12.
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
Thurs 21 Jan	School Office Opens for 2016 Student Free Day
Fri 22 Jan	School Office Open Student Free Day
Mon 25 Jan	School Office Open Student Free Day
Tues 26 Jan	Australia Day Public Holiday
Wed 27 Jan	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School for 2016

## New Queensland Flag

State Member for Burnett, Stephen Bennet presented our School Captains with a new Queensland Flag last week.



### **From the Principal**

It is only 20 work days until our school year comes to an end, however this does not mean that our expectations and commitment to learning begin to waiver. This year, we have communicated home the importance of attendance and that every day counts. For our classes, this is the same. We have a strong focus on learning right up to our behaviour celebration on the last Thursday of term. Our classes are still learning about new concepts and ensuring that students have every opportunity to showcase their learning over the year prior to our academic reporting.

Our school is also continuing along its pathway of CREATE, particularly with reviewing our practices. Last week saw our verification of our Quadrennial School Review and approval of our Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2018. To go with this, we have clarified our school mission from the parent feedback that has been provided over the year.

#### **Our Mission**

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

As a school we will do this through

- challenging, engaging and meaningful learning opportunities that consider the individual learner.
- setting high expectations and providing the support to enable student achievement.
- providing safe, supportive and well managed learning environments that are imbedded with a rich, contextualised curriculum that fosters inquiry.
- establishing common foundations, language and transitions that support both staff and students.
- ensuring effective, timely and meaningful feedback to parents, students and staff.
- maintaining a highly professional staff that continue to develop their currency of practice.

Our Mission forms the strong platform for our strategic plan where our school has a key focus on developing Spelling, Writing and Numeracy outcomes for students. While this our immediate priority, it is still important for our school that we continue to develop the educational opportunities at Agnes Water State School that provide students a well-rounded education.

#### **Celebrating 25 Years**

It is very exciting for our school to be celebrating 25 years of education for the community of Agnes Water. This semester students have been learning about the changes that have occurred in 25 years, not only for our school, but in our community. We will celebrate

our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Wednesday 18 November from 9:30am to 11:00am. During the morning our school will be holding a special parade along with an opportunity for the community to view the static displays of the history in our school. All students are asked to bring a plate to share, such as a cake, cookies or something a little healthier for our morning tea that we will share with our community guests.

The display will be held in our school hall and will be re-open for any community members who are unable to join us in the morning from 3:00pm to 7:00pm on Wednesday 18 November.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our display.

#### **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support**

As our school moves into the second stage of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program, we will continue to communicate and clarify our expectations with students in the school and will share this with parents through our newsletter.

I am respectful.

Students have been learning the appropriate way to borrow something, with respect for the other person's property. Classroom discussions focused on:

- Whenever someone has something that you would like to borrow, you always have to ask whether it is okay to borrow it.
- The person must first give you permission to use their possession.
- Most people will be happy to lend you something if they are confident that it will come back to them the same way it was given to you.
- By returning it in the same condition, you show the person that you respect them and their property.

#### **Nude Food Lunch**

Our school is committed to contributing positively to the environment and minimising our impact due to waste. To help with our education around this, our school is hosting a Nude Food Day on Friday 27 November. On this day we are challenging families to bring lunches that have no general waste such as plastics or paper.

#### **Friday Sports**

Fridays are very busy for our Year 4-6 students, especially those who have to depart for sports. It is important that students who travel out of the school for sport do not order a second break tuckshop on Fridays and any purchasing from the tuckshop happens at first break only. While, students travelling to outside of school sports are given eating time before departing for sport, our tuckshop isn't open for additional service at 12:30pm. We have seen an

increasing trend of students trying to buy from the tuckshop at this time and this is impacting upon our departure time. Please ensure that if your child travels out of the school for sport, that they have something from home for their second break. Those students who do sports at school have their break at normal times so are still able to order and purchase at second break.

## HOC News

### **Australian Curriculum Update**

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 quick 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.

Secondly, try to weave school life into your home life in a way that isn't onerous. We have worked hard to design our homework in the form of a family friendly matrix so that it can be flexible and meets the needs of busy homes. Enjoy reading with them – let them flick through the good old Woman's Weekly Birthday Cake books or their dad's boating magazines. Compare movies (eg. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr Fox) with books and ask them which is better and why. I have a whole series of Star Wars books if people want to prepare for the up-coming movie! 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.

We know that regular practice of sight words and times tables is the way to cement the basics, but it can be hard to think of engaging ways to do this without it becoming a huge chore for everyone. Writing sight words in imaginative places – sticky notes down the hallway that they have to say every time they walk down there, getting chalk and writing it on the footpath, make a game of hopscotch with the sight words or times table in each box, draw a target game on the wall that they can throw a ball at and say the word or sum as they hit it. My personal favourite is the white-board marker (sight words and times tables) on the bath tiles – they are doing their homework and getting clean at the same time!

Read through the task sheets that are getting sent home to your at various times over the term with your child.

My 2/3 science group are investigating why things melt and freeze, so I am encouraging lots of incidental conversations as these things occur...it is often the conversation, and where this can take us that is the most rewarding and educational part for them.

### **Remembrance Day**

On Wednesday this week we commemorated Remembrance Day. Many parts of the Australian Curriculum can be linked to events such as this and this ensures your children have a richer understanding of why we have parades such as this. (Prep: Pose questions about past and present objects, people, places and events ([ACHASSI001](#)), How they, their family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them ([ACHASSK012](#)) Year One: How the present, past and future are signified by terms indicating time, as well as by dates and changes that may have personal [significance](#), such as birthdays, celebrations and seasons ([ACHASSK029](#)), Year Two: The connections of people in Australia to people in other places in Australia and across the world ([ACHASSK050](#)) Year Three: Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, [Anzac Day](#), and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems ([ACHASSK064](#)).

Special Congratulations to Kaylee Boyce for her brilliant reading of 'In Flanders Fields' by Major John McCrae. Kaylee worked tirelessly with the support of Mrs Julia Cook and Mr Gourlay to memorise and read the poem to the whole school to help us understand the experiences of service people and their relatives in wartime.

### **In Flanders Fields**

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*Major John McCrae*

## Celebrate What You Want to See More of.....

This fortnight I would like to celebrate the work of Miss Kate, our lovely year 2 teacher. Children in her class are always engaged in hands on learning that is relevant to our beautiful town. Miss Kate's enthusiasm for protecting our environment means her students are involved in things like our school gardens (the tomato plants are pumping!), cleaning our coastline, recycling and creating, and learning about our school bush tucker. Her passion for teaching means that she uses many different methods to make sure each child understands – and the result is a group of curious, independent life-long learners. Thanks Miss Kate!

Happy Learning,

Mrs Leigh Tankey

Head of Curriculum

## Year 6 Camp 2015



On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October the Year 6 class of Agnes Water State School arrived at Chaverim Outdoor Education Centre. We had been itching to get there for the whole year. On arrival we were introduced to the camp instructors Adam, Jody and Annalise. After the introductions we played a series of fun games such as; all in, finger fencing, line balance and many more. Each day was fun-filled with both mentally and physically challenging activities. Students had to conquer their fears and try things they had never done before.

The Flying Possum was one of our favourite activities. Students were hauled up into the air by the 'donkey crew'(support team). Whilst in the air we were able to perform 'The Cyclone',

'Superman' and 'Elevator'. Another favourite was 'Big Reggie', a very high hoop pine, where teams free climbed up the tree through gaps, both huge and narrow through the branches. After each exhausting day everyone chilled out or played cricket, before heading to the dinner room, followed by more night activity games. The week just flew by and when it came to Friday nobody was ready to leave. We eventually got over it and hopped on the bus exhausted, tired and ready to go home.

By Ella Rupp, Charlie Bradley-Tasser and Luca Bowe



# 2016 school calendar

## Queensland state schools



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There are 192 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, 25, April 6, 7, 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 (November 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)

