



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

P.O. Box 238

1 Donohue Drive, AGNES WATER QLD 4677

Ph: 07 4902 1333

Email: [the.principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au)

clever • skilled • creative

## Year 5 & Year 6 Tennis Tournament

Our annual Year 5/6 Tennis Tournament is currently underway with some awesome skills already shown by our students. The Tournament will continue until the end of the term.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Mon 30 Nov	Year 6 Dinner
Tues 1 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Program at Rosedale P-12.
Tues 1 Dec	Prep Book Launch
Wed 2 Dec	Year 6 Joey Inn Excursion
Thurs 3 Dec	Secondary School Readiness Program at Rosedale P-12.
Mon 7 Dec	P&C Meeting 4:00pm
Tues 8 Dec	Concert rehearsal – Community Hall
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



### SCHOOL BANKING

Don't forget school banking is every Tuesday.



### **From the Principal**

I look back at my own time as a student in a school and think about the teachers that I had. There were a couple at the time that I really did not like. I remember going home and complaining bitterly to my parents about them. There were also a couple of teachers that I don't remember achieving a lot with. Over the years, I have caught up with several of my class mates and we sometimes talk about the different teachers we had, but what first surprised me, was the differences in our memories and our take-aways from each of these teachers. There was one teacher, Mrs Simpson, who I managed to have for three years in a row and all I remember is how tough she was on me and how I thought she was always picking on me, but this is not how my friends remember her. They remember her as being very compassionate and wanting the best from her students. They believed that these years were the best years of their primary schooling. It is only now as an adult that I can see the value that having different teachers has had upon my life. It has made me resilient enough to the diverse range of people that I interact with each and every day. It has made me recognise those that can add value to my life and help me further along my career. I have learnt that just because you don't like someone, it is not an excuse for not achieving the best that I can – yes it is harder, but not an excuse. These teachers all helped me to be more of a realist and recognise that I don't always get my own way, and that in life we have to take the good with the bad, because both teach us valuable lessons. These are the lessons we don't find in the Australian Curriculum, they are important life lessons.

As a Principal it is my job to help ensure that the good outweighs the challenges in each child's education, and while I would like it to be all good, life isn't all good. We have many challenges that we face as adults and if we have never had to experience situations that challenge us as children, it is often much harder for us to face these as adults.

As we look forward to 2016 and make decisions about the education of your children, I look at all of the factors that will help to outweigh the bad with the good. The decisions made around classes and teachers are made in the best interest of the entire school, not just the individual. Unfortunately your children won't always get the teacher they or you want, but what is important is what life lessons your child will benefit from this experience. Our teachers are great teachers. They adapt, change and develop to meet the needs of our students.

Celebrate the teacher your child has. Celebrate the opportunity your child has to learn in our system of education. Look at not only the lessons your child will learn from the Australian Curriculum, but the life lessons of working with different people, including those who challenge us. Finally, take comfort in knowing that our school has a leadership team that works to ensure that your children are getting the best education they can within Agnes Water.

As this is our last newsletter for the school year, I would like to thank the wonderful staff we have in our school and the difference they have made to the education of your children. In 11 months our school has completely reshaped itself and is a very different learning environment compared to where we were in January. While our facilities are still the same, it is the mindset of our staff and students that is different. It is the type of learning and support that is occurring across the school that is leading to significant student outcomes. It is also the feeling as you walk through the school. It is from this strong foundation that we have developed this year, that we look forward to sustaining our work and building an even greater learning environment in 2016. Thank you to the parents and our wider community for the support you have given to our school this year and to me as the Principal. As we head into the last two weeks of the school year and the festive season, let's focus on this wonderful year, acknowledge the achievements we have made so far and celebrate the accomplishments of our students.

I look forward to seeing our families at our awards night and concert on Wednesday 9 December to formally celebrate our students and their achievements, and bring our school year to a close.

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

This year we have shared our school expectations regularly, however we haven't always talked about the personal virtues that go with these expectations. As we head into the time of year that we are supposed to be celebrating families and friends, it is unfortunately the time of the year that is also the most stressful for families. Our work demands increase, family budgets are often tight and our personal stress levels go through the roof. It is also the time of year that the tolerance level of children drop. There are two important virtues that we need to practice more now than any other; kindness and patience and I discussed these on parade with students this morning. Kindness in the way we speak to and treat each other. This can be simply saying good morning in a friendly manner, smiling at someone, inviting others to join in. It is doing

something for someone else without ulterior motive. We know that we are practicing kindness because it makes us feel good about ourselves. We also need to practice patience by thinking before we speak, taking the time to understand why someone might be doing the things they do and allowing the time to complete what is asked. We also demonstrate these virtues by looking at our own behaviours and recognising when things are bothering us and taking steps to remove ourselves from the situation, eg. when we are hot and bothered. My challenge to our students is to do at least one act of kindness per day for the last two weeks.

### **Awards Night**

Our 2015 Awards Night and Concert are creeping up quickly. To make it easier for families to attend the many events that occur at this time of the year and to acknowledge our award recipients as an entire school, we have combined both of our Awards and Concert together into a celebration of learning on Wednesday 9 December in the community hall. Our classes are busy putting together their concert items and finalising their student awards for the year. On Tuesday 8 December all of our classes will walk over to the community hall to participate in a dress rehearsal using the stage. Our Year 2/3 to Year 6 classes will walk over to the hall at 8:45am and return at approximately 9:45am. Our P to Year 2 classes will walk over at 9:45am and return in time for morning tea.

### **Celebration Day**

Our Term 4 Behaviour Celebration Day will be an exciting morning at 1770 on Thursday 10 December with a range of beach games and water activities. Invitations and permissions will be sent out next week and parents are encouraged to join us as we would like additional supervision for the swimming activities. 1770 has been selected for this activity due to the shallow water enabling all students to participate in the water activities at their own comfort level. This day will also be a free dress day for students, as long as the clothing is sun safe.

As in all previous Behaviour Celebration Days, the event is a reward from the Principal to those students who continuously demonstrate our school expectations. This event will be a nil cost activity covered by our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Team. As a school we recognise that children are not perfect and we take this into consideration when providing invitations. Students who demonstrate major behaviours or ongoing minor behaviours will be provided a curriculum work program during the time of this event. These students

will join back with all other class programs and end of year activities in the afternoon.

In the instance of weather issues on the day, an alternative water activity will be held at school.

### **Class Lists**

As we are still waiting to finalise our staffing and we are borderline around the number of classes that we have, we will not be able to publish our class lists until the week before school resumes. Class lists will be made available on the noticeboard beside Prep and the Uniform Shed by no later than Thursday 21 January. Unfortunately we cannot accept requests for changes to student placements or requests for specific class placements.

It is recognised that students like to know whose class they will be in the following year, and it is just as frustrating for our staff in preparing for the school year, however, publishing lists as late as possible helps to reduce any significant shifts in class placements or teachers on Day 8. Currently we are anticipating 9 classes that will operate across the school. At the moment we will likely to have 5 classes from Prep to Year 3 with the following teachers; Cathy Hancock, Marilyn Window, Stephanie Smith, Keryn Heenan and Kate Lucas. From Year 3 to Year 6 it is likely we will have four classes with the following teachers; John Hancock, Chrissy Jackholme, Karen Hartley and Richard Gourlay. Please be aware that we consider many factors in placing students and the creation of class groupings to ensure that each class is balanced in numbers and provides the best learning environment for children. Based on our enrolment numbers and groupings of students, most classes will be multi-aged. This will further assist in providing the best outcomes for all students across the school.

Contrary to some of the rumours, Trevor will still be the Principal in 2016 and hopefully continuing for a few more years after that. We also have the committed support of our Head of Curriculum, Leigh Tankey and Master Teacher, Tarnia Doughty. We will further our individual student support in 2016 with additional support teacher roles and continued support of our Teacher Aides.

### **2016 Booklists**

Our student booklists for 2016 will come home with report cards on Thursday 10 December. These will also be available on the school website from this date.

### **Friday Sports**

Friday 4 December is our last day for electives for Year 4-6 students. Our sport program will recommence early Term 1 with a new range of elective choices for students.

## HOC News

### **Australian Curriculum Update**

Revisions have been made to the Australian Curriculum to make the curriculum easier to manage, particularly for primary schools, to simplify the curriculum's presentation and to strengthen the focus on literacy. One of the main areas that has been improved for your child is the joining of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business subjects to now become one learning area called Humanities and Social Sciences. This allows for greater integration across the subjects so that teachers can build rich contexts that are relevant to our school and community. As teachers we continually reflect and improve on our practices.

### **Interpreting your child's report card**

The comments and marks on your child's report card have been carefully and thoughtfully considered. They are based on an ongoing portfolio of student work and effort over the course of many months. The language used has been based on the Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum. This is the standard that your child is expected to achieve by the end of their year level. If your child receives a 'C' or 'Working With' it means that they are able to work with the curriculum content and demonstrate the required understanding. If you have any questions about the report card it is never too late to have a chat with your child's teacher about this. The information in this report will also be used to inform your child's next teacher so they can continue along the learning journey with your child.

### **Curriculum Progress at Agnes Water State School**

At the start of the year we made a promise to parents to create a whole school curriculum plan using research based programs and engaging contexts for our students. This year the journey has been extremely worthwhile and productive. Our staff have worked together to create whole school practices based on current research and best practice. The purpose of a whole school approach is to ensure consistency in language and expectation. This means that even when our children change teachers, the high levels of learning will continue because they are based on our whole school research based programs. This year we have created a whole school unit planner with which we design units of work directly from the Australian Curriculum. We have created whole school task sheets and guides to making judgements so that students can follow the same high, clear standard in their assessment regardless of their year level. Our homework matrix has been a great success with many parents giving us positive feedback about how it fits into home life while still enhancing learning. We are

busily compiling Curriculum Resource Boxes to be given to every teacher who teaches in our school – the same programs, the same practice guides and the same high standards in every classroom. We have designed a whole school unit of work to be taught within the first two weeks of 2016 that will see every teacher delivering lessons on our school values and teaching the expectations of our school. Classes will design a school pride project by choosing an area within the school that their class will care for throughout the whole year – it could be a patch in the garden, keeping our fence-line tidy, painting a mural – anything that further fosters pride in our lovely school. Agnes Water State School is an exciting place to learn and grow.

### **Celebrate What You Want to See More Of.....**

This week I would like to celebrate the efforts of our dedicated parents – thank you for being partners in your child's education. Thank you for caring enough to give us feedback about what we are doing well, for letting us know a little bit more about your child so they we can further make sure they thrive, for being committed to valuing everyday of education. Thank you for trusting our professional judgements and for working with us on building resilience and independence in your children. It does sound like a cliché but the truth of the matter is that the partnership between school and home is imperative to the success of these lovely Agnes Water students. Please enjoy the next two weeks of school as we continue to celebrate the massive efforts of our school community.

#### **Two Sculptors**

*I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there,  
The clay they used was a young child's mind,  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher; the tools she used  
Were books, music and art.  
One, a parent who worked with a guiding hand  
And a gentle loving heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled  
With touch that was deft and sure,  
While the parent laboured by her side  
And polished and smoothed it over.  
And when at last their task was done.  
They were proud of what they had wrought;  
For the things they had moulded into the child  
Could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agreed he would have failed  
If he had worked alone,  
For behind the teacher stood the school,  
And behind the parent, the home.*

*David Bowen*

Happy Learning,  
Mrs Leigh Tankey  
Head of Curriculum

**MEDIA RELEASE – AGNES BLUES, ROOTS & ROCK FESTIVAL, AN EVENT NOT TO MISS!**

**FESTIVAL DATES:** Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st February 2016

**VENUE:** SES Grounds, Captain Cook Drive, Seventeen Seventy, Qld 4677

The 2016 Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock 3-day music festival should be on your calendar by now, it is sure to be an event not to miss!

Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock Festival is held annually in February, encouraging blues and roots fanatics to travel to the area and immerse themselves in the tunes and the delights of the destination.

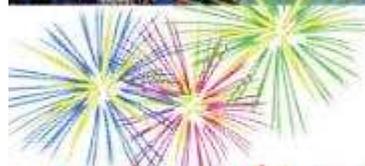
The 2016 performer lineup includes the ever popular, world famous, **8 Ball Aitken**. 8 Ball Aitken has a genuine crowd-pleasing style and if you haven't seen this passionate Aussie performer, be ready for a roof rattling show!

Also performing in 2016 are the rising stars of **Agnes Blue** – Jack and Freya Blandford – **Adam Hole**, **The Urban Chiefs**, **Kissing the Flint**, **Dr Trouble** and more great artists.

Bookings for tickets are via the website [www.agnesbluesandroots.com.au](http://www.agnesbluesandroots.com.au)

The **early bird ticket price of \$121pp** for 3 days at the festival is available until 31 December 2015...and it would make an excellent Christmas present for your friends and family!

A shout out for volunteers, one and all who would love to help promote, develop and grow this fantastic festival, please register at [events@dctc.com.au](mailto:events@dctc.com.au) or 07 49747570



Over \$11,000  
in cash and prizes  
to be won!

## 54th Gladstone Harbour Festival

### Get Involved!

Heading into its 54th year as Gladstone's most loved event, the Gladstone Harbour Festival will once again bring the community a jam-packed program that is sure to entertain, but we need your help. This is your opportunity to get involved and win some great prizes. With over \$11,000 worth of cash and prizes up for grabs in 2016 it is time to start thinking about your entry. Expressions of Interest are sought for entrants in the Great Raft Race, Queen Quest, Talent Quest, Blessing & Dressing of the Fleet and the much loved Street Parade.

For more information call the office on 4972 5111 or go to [www.gladstonefestival.com](http://www.gladstonefestival.com).

Entry forms available online Friday 4, December 2015.



# 2016 school calendar

## Queensland state schools



DECEMBER 2015	JANUARY 2016	FEBRUARY	MARCH
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
DECEMBER	JANUARY 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9e1f2; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> School terms</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffe4c4; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> School holidays</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Public holidays</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #dc143c; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Staff professional development day</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Flexible staff professional development day</li> </ul>	
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

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)

