



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

P.O. Box 238

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Ph: 07 4902 1333

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

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Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
Mon 16 Feb	School Performance Tours 9:00
Thur 26 Feb	State Principal Conference
Fri 27 Feb	State Principal Conference
Sun 1 Mar	Working Bee
Mon 9 Mar	P&C AGM (Tentative)
Fri 20 Mar	Cross Country
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meetings
Thur 26 Mar	Walk-a-thon
Thur 2 April	Academic Triathlon – Math
Fri 3 April	Good Friday

Please see the attached State School's Calendar for information about school terms and student free days.



## Chess Club



Every Tuesday and Thursday at first break. First Interschool Competition is in Term 2.



## From the Principal

Tuesday night was a great opportunity for parents to engage with the teachers of our school and myself to find out about the direction and expectations of our school for 2015. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for this evening. During the evening I discussed our seven priorities for 2015 that will drive our Annual Improvement Plan;

- A Focus on the Positive.
- Consistency of practice.
- Engaging opportunities for students.
- A focus on our core priority – learning.
- Targeted student support.
- Reviewing our practices.
- Education in Partnership.

Key to these priorities is the role of parents in reinforcing and supporting our expectations. For our school every minute counts in 2015. Our school commences at 8:40am and it is an expectation that our teachers commence their teaching at this time. Therefore we expect our students to be at school ready to start by 8:40am. Students who are arriving after 8:40am are deemed as arriving late at school and must be signed into the school by parents. Students will also require a late slip from our office before attending class.

Not only was it great to discuss our expectations, but share some of the exciting programs that we have coming up this year. We have already commenced our Chess Club and Choir and have our Academic Triathlon starting at the end of this term. Our Chess Club has had a wonderful start with over 50 children from Prep to Year Six participating in this program on a Tuesday and Thursday at first break.

This week also saw our increase of classes. Many thanks to everyone for your support in making this transition a rapid process with all classes operational before 9am on Monday. With our structure finally settled for the year, our teachers are focused on setting high expectations and delivering our curriculum.

Parents are able to access the presentation from Tuesday night from the school's website.

## Email Communication

As of next week we will be commencing our email communication for newsletter and information for parents. If you haven't returned the confirmation of emergency contacts to the school, can you please make sure this is returned early next week so that email contacts can be confirmed and added to our distribution list. Today's newsletter will be sent over the weekend as a test to those families who have their email address listed with the school.

### **Parade has changed!**

Our weekly parades have been held on a Friday Morning from 9:00am in the hall from the beginning of the year. Students must first go to their classes and will then be brought up to the hall by their class teacher.

## Carpark

The car parking on Donohue Drive has been a significant issue for many years. The school is currently finalising discussions with the Gladstone Regional Council about how this can be remedied. Several solutions are currently proposed including extending walkways and increasing the number of parking bays. It is hoped that planning around this will be finalised this term. Parents are asked to be mindful of their driving in this area, especially after three very near misses where children were almost hit by cars in the last two weeks.

## School Performance Tours

We will be joined by school performance tours on Monday 16 February for an exciting puppetry performance "Making Friends". Permission forms for this activity were sent home with the oldest child in each family early last week. If you have misplaced this form, please return \$4.00 per child in an envelope on Monday morning.

## Working Bee

We are seeking the help of parents at our working bee on Sunday 1 March. The working bee will run from 8:00am until 12:00pm. This working bee will focus on cleaning up gardens, our forest area and general painting. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. Please contact our school

office on 4902 1333 to let us know if you are able to help.

### **I AM SAFE and I AM RESPECTFUL**

As a part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support implementation we have already explored three of our school rules. This week our classes explicitly discussed "I am safe". One of the key behaviours is the ability to keep others safe as well by keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. As a school we cannot allow physical behaviours towards others to go unaddressed. Everyone is entitled to feel safe in our school and our school will treat breaches to this school rule seriously. Parents are asked to reinforce with their children that violence is not an acceptable resolution to any conflict. Next week our explicit focus will be on, 'I am respectful'. In our school, 'I am Respectful' means;

<b>all settings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ follow instructions</li> <li>➤ speak kindly</li> <li>➤ care for others</li> <li>➤ respect all property</li> <li>➤ wear school uniform with pride</li> <li>➤ listen when others speak</li> <li>➤ use manners</li> <li>➤ be aware of personal space</li> <li>➤ cooperate with others</li> <li>➤ walk quietly</li> <li>➤ be honest</li> <li>➤ friendly</li> <li>➤ share</li> <li>➤ comply with dress code policy</li> <li>➤ show whole body listening</li> </ul>
<b>classroom/library</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ help others</li> <li>➤ encourage others</li> <li>➤ share and take turns</li> <li>➤ work without disrupting others</li> <li>➤ accept differences</li> <li>➤ solve problems with words</li> <li>➤ one voice at a time</li> <li>➤ listen when others speak</li> <li>➤ look out for each other</li> <li>➤ respect others' space</li> <li>➤ respect own and others' property</li> <li>➤ value others learning time</li> <li>➤ do your best</li> <li>➤ ask for help when needed</li> <li>➤ respect instruments and equipment</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>

<b>Play areas/PE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ solve problems with words</li> <li>➤ share the space and take turns with equipment</li> <li>➤ stay out of the gardens</li> <li>➤ play by the game's rules</li> <li>➤ show good sportsmanship</li> <li>➤ return sports gear to correct place</li> <li>➤ encourage others</li> <li>➤ include others who want to join in</li> <li>➤ care for the environment - trees, plants and animals</li> </ul>
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### **Head of Curriculum News**

Welcome back to an exciting new year of learning at Agnes Water State School. Many thanks for welcoming me so warmly into my new role – I love this school and am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with such talented educators, supportive parents and enthusiastic students.

In my role as Head of Curriculum I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the educators of our lovely school to create a rigorous, interesting and relevant curriculum that will enable all children to flourish. I will work with parents in developing a strong partnership with our school through sharing of current educational practices and regular request for parent feedback about these policies.

### **Homework Policy**

I invite your feedback about our new homework policy which can be found on the school web page under 'Support and Resources'. Throughout the course of the term could you please talk to your child and classroom teacher about the way homework fits best for your family. More information about the research behind our policy can be found at <http://www.boysforward.com.au/>. We will revisit the policy later in the term to further improve the way we deliver homework. I would love to hear your ideas and opinions about this. Please email me on [ltank1@eq.edu.au](mailto:ltank1@eq.edu.au).

## **Explanation of the Australian Curriculum for Parents - from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority)**

The educational plans for our school for 2015 and beyond are aligned with the expectations of the Australian Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum is based on educational goals set many years ago. The goals include to promote equity and excellence, and for students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and to be active and informed citizens. Each newsletter I will continue to share updates about different elements of the Australian Curriculum and the way we deliver it in our school.

### **Chess Club**

An exciting opportunity to further enhance the education of our students is the creation of our Chess Club. Students of all ages are invited to come along twice a week for a game of chess with their peers during first play. Dedicated chess players will have the opportunity to represent our school in a number of interschool chess tournaments this year. We may even have a parent vs student chess competition - if you are keen to help please let us know.

“The Chess Program at our State School has been extremely successful on a number of levels over the last fifteen years. Not only has chess provided a further avenue for our gifted and talented children to express themselves, but it has also provided an opportunity for other children to shine in an academic and competitive pursuit. We feel the chess program has challenged and motivated children through participation in interschool and intra school competitions. Many children have experienced great success in representing their school/house team at these events. It has encouraged risk taking in a safe environment and creates an enjoyable problem solving environment with a strong emphasis on good sportsmanship. We have found instances where children with learning difficulties have succeeded over the chess board, and, this in turn, has helped them to achieve in the regular literacy and numeracy activities of their classroom.”  
Quote from an EQ teacher.

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

What wonderful things are you seeing happening in our school? Once we start looking for the positives in a place it is amazing what we can find. During the short time we have been back at school I have observed many exciting and innovative practices taking place. Educators at our school utilise every precious moment we have with your children to enhance their learning. If your child is in Miss Kate’s class they will be enjoying their morning fruit break while being enthralled by a whole class reading of class stories written by the talented students themselves. They will be making real world connections about caring for our environment and food waste through feeding their worm farm the scraps from their fruit break. These dedicated little learners will also be utilising the worm tea created to feed our school vegetable garden – all the while being immersed in the literacy that surrounds this. Please share what you see...email me at [ltank1@eq.edu.au](mailto:ltank1@eq.edu.au) so we can all benefit from the dedication of our educators.



I look forward to continuing to be a part of this very professional, caring and inspiring team.

Yours in Learning,

Mrs Leigh Tankey

### **Resource Centre News**

Welcome to 2015

Please encourage your child to utilise the great resources we have in our school. The use of a library bag will greatly improve the lifespan of our books. Two books may be borrowed each time. Books MUST be returned before more can be borrowed. Your child’s



borrowing day will be allocated by their class teacher.

Book Club is up and running. Catalogues will be sent home this week with a note regarding LOOP – an online ordering service that parents can utilise. Orders will still be delivered to the school but online ordering helps reduce the paper trail. Books may be ordered through the Resource Centre if required.

### Parents and Citizens Association News

Welcome back everyone to 2015 at Agnes Water State School. We extend a very warm welcome to our new Principal Mr Trevor Buchanan and welcome him and his family to our community. The AGM has been set for March and invite all parents to come along and have input towards the school's direction for 2015. Last year, the P&C's fundraising targets went towards:

1. Provision/installation of Wireless Access Points in classrooms.
2. Whole school Reading Eggs and Mathletics subscriptions.
3. 2014 phonebooks
4. Sun safety and hygiene improvements – to provide classrooms with sunscreen and sanitizers.
5. All community/social events

A huge thank to all businesses for their sponsorship and donations throughout the year. As well as a very sincere thank you to our dedicated parents for making all of the above successes happen in 2014.

Sunday 1 March, 8am – 12pm

Working Bee – P&C require much needed assistance from parents to paint and undertake general maintenance tasks. Sausage sizzle at 12pm. Please come along as many hands make light work.

Walkathon – Thursday 26th March

P&C will be running the Walkathon this year as it is a fantastic and rewarding fundraiser for all.

Sponsorship forms will be handed out in the next week.

Saturday 2nd May - Pink Stumps Day 1-5pm

Clean out your pink gear and get your teams ready for our Pink Stumps Cricket Afternoon. Register your teams on the form attached and send in to the school.

Don't forget our meetings are held every second Monday of the Month from 4pm.

P&C President

Shane Webster

The Queensland Government has provided \$4,950.00 to Football Central Queensland for The Get Going, Girls Come & Try Program in 2015, to increase Queenslanders participation in sport and recreation activities.

**Girls**  
**Come and Try Football**

**2 - 5 pm Sunday 22nd February 2015**  
Palm Drive Sports Complex - Blain Drive, Gladstone  
**Girls aged 5 - 16**  
For more information please contact Football CQ on 0488 435166

Register online at [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au)



The Annual General Meeting of the **Agnes Water State School Bus Conveyance Committee** is being held at **9.00am** on **Thursday 19 February 2015** at the school's undercover area. All parents of children travelling to the primary school by buses 1,2,3 and 4 are encouraged to attend. New committee members are needed.

Christine Jones

Secretary AWSS Bus Conveyance Committee



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### Communication

Communication is key to all good relationships and our school strives to ensure we sustain great relationships with our parents through clear, timely and concise communication. Our goal is to be approachable and ensure you have the information you require for your child's education.

#### How the school will communicate with parents

##### Newsletter

Our fortnightly newsletter will be provided to parents in electronic form through email or on the school's website. Parents may request to have the newsletter provided in hard copy form if email or internet access is not available.

##### Facebook

Our school's Facebook page will be used to celebrate student achievement and promote school activities. This site is moderated with all posts made in private, while comments to school created posts are monitored for appropriateness.

##### Website

Our school's website is a public document with access to school policies, newsletters, annual reports, calendar of events and general information about the school. Parents can access this website via the internet, or they can download the QSchools App which will give parents notifications about new newsletters and news posts that are added to the site.

##### Notices

Over the year several notices will be provided to parents regarding excursions or coming events. These notices are generally classroom specific.

##### Information Sessions

Information sessions will be provided to parents three times throughout the course of the year. The first is held at the beginning of the school year where general information about education and school operation will be shared. Parent-teacher information sessions are offered at the end of Term 1 and Term 3 where parents may meet individually with their child's teacher to discuss academic and social achievements.

##### Formal Reporting

Parents will be provided a formal written report of their child's academic and behavioural achievement at the end of Semester One and Semester Two each year. These reports are specific to the academic achievement of each child in that particular semester. Semester Two report is not an overall report for the year.

##### Phone and email

Phone and email communication is used by the school in instances where individual parents need to be contacted.



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### How parents can communicate with the school

Parents have several different methods in which to communicate with the school.

#### Classroom Teachers

Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact for anything relating to the classroom or behavioural concerns. When making contact with classroom teachers it is asked that parents please be mindful of teacher preparation time in the mornings before school. It is always best to make an appointment through the office if you require time to discuss any significant matter.

#### Administration

Our office team are the staff to make contact with for making appointments with teachers, specialists such as our Guidance Officer or the Principal. You can notify the school of any student absences through the school's office. You can contact the office via phone 07 4902 1333 or email [admin@agnewatess.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@agnewatess.eq.edu.au)

#### Facebook

Our Facebook page is the only page that the school will respond to posts by the community or parents. This page is moderated and posts are made as private messages and will not be displayed. Parents may choose to comment on posts by the school and this will be displayed, however negative and defamatory comments will be deleted.

#### Confidential Issues

Where an issue is highly confidential, very serious or issues require escalation beyond the classroom teacher, parents are able to contact the principal initially via email [the.principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au) or request an appointment through the school's office. The issue may not be able to be dealt with immediately, however you will receive a response from the Principal either electronically or via the phone, normally within 1 working day.



### Agnes Water/1770 Little Athletics Sign On Day 7<sup>th</sup> March 9am Discovery Coast Sport & Rec – Anderson Way

Agnes Water/1770 Little Athletics is a volunteer run club that offers a range of sporting events – track & field.

The events are specially modified to suit the ages and abilities of children. Track events include Sprints (70m, 100m, 200m), Distance (400m, 800m, 1500m), Hurdles, Walks & Relays. Field events include Jumps (High Jump, Long Jump & Triple Jump) & Throws (Shot Put, Discus, Javelin).

Little Athletics offers young people activities & skills that will lay the foundation for the sporting futures.

Events are held on Saturday mornings at Discovery Coast Sport & Recreation grounds on Anderson Way. Contact Simone Howard 0401 571 031 or email [awla1770@gmail.com](mailto:awla1770@gmail.com) for more information.

*Little Athletics..... Where everyone is a STAR*

# 2015 school calendar Queensland state schools

DEC 2014	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
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DECEMBER	JAN 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f9c74f; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> School holidays</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #00a0e3; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Public holidays</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid #000; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Flexible staff professional development days</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #76b82a; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Staff professional development days</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #fce4d6; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> School terms</li> </ul>	
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There are 195 school days in 2015. Semester 1 2015 commences for teachers on January 22 and for students on January 27.

#### STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are January 22 and 23, and October 19, with three additional flexible days. 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 20 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 27 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 4.

All other state primary, secondary and special schools will close on December 11.

In 2016, all state schools will re-open for students on January 25.

*The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (August 2014) 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)

Great state. Great opportunity.  
And a plan for the future.

