



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

P.O. Box 238

1 Donohue Drive, AGNES WATER QLD 4677

Ph: 07 49021333

Email: the.principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au

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Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
Sun 1 Mar	Working Bee
Mon 9 Mar	P&C AGM (Tentative)
Tues 17 Mar	Teacher Twilight PD Session
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.



From the Principal

For a small community, Agnes Water is certainly a busy place. An attempt to find a day for our working bee that didn't clash with an existing event in the town has been very difficult. Thanks to the few parents who offered their assistance for the working bee planned for this Sunday from 8:00am to 12:00pm, however due to the limited response the number of activities that are able to be completed has been restricted. If you are still able to help out on the day even for an hour or two, please come along with a hat, gardening gloves and any gardening tools that you may have including power tools. Your children are able to come and help on the day as well.

We have a few targeted areas to work in;

- Environmental Play – removal of excess green waste.
- Vegie Gardens – cleaning out and prep for planting this year.
- General gardening, weeding and mulching.

After five weeks in the school, I am starting to get a real feel for where we are at as a school and where we need to head for the remainder of the year to provide the best educational opportunities for your children. There are three significant practices that we are working towards to have full implementation in readiness for Term Two. The first is our homework policy. This has been available on the school website for parent comment and feedback over the last few weeks. The second is our whole of school literacy programs, including reading, writing, spelling and oral language. The third priority is our targeted intervention and assessment schedule. This priority will see a restructure of how we utilise our human resources to maximise the impact for student learning. These three practices will be modelled and implemented with our teachers at our Twilight Professional Development session in Week Eight of this term. This is part of our first stage of a three year plan in ensuring consistency of practice across the school. Developing a consistent practice in our school is important as it helps to build confidence and reduce anxiety in our students, clarifies expectations and defines the "Agnes Water State School Way" of operating.

It helps in our accountability to you as parents, knowing that regardless whom your child's classroom teacher is, that the types of practices and delivery of curriculum is occurring from room to room.

Another commitment of our school that I covered at the Information Evening is 'no surprises'. As a school we are endeavouring to maximise our communication processes. We have commenced with our bulk email for the newsletter and some notices. We have endeavoured to contact parents within the day around items of importance including behaviour and academic concerns and acknowledgements. We are currently introducing new processes to inform parents of minor first aid and behaviour incidents. The next part of this process is our Parent-Teacher Meetings. These meetings will be held during week nine of this term. These fifteen minute one on one meeting times are an opportunity for parents to find out about their child's current progress and voice any concerns before our formal reporting at the end of this Semester. Each meeting will be followed up with a written copy of the discussion. To assist in the booking process of these meetings, we will be utilising an online booking process this year. This will enable parents to look at the availabilities of all of their children's teachers and plan out meeting times that are most workable for them. We recognise that not everyone has internet access, therefore we will be setting up a computer kiosk in our school's foyer for parents to access bookings and other resources that are web based for our school.

There is a lot of work happening in our school at the moment to shape our school for the future. I appreciate the support and patience that parents have been providing as we continue along our journey to ensure that Agnes Water State School is a high performing school that, as a community, we can be proud of.

Exciting Opportunities

There are many extra-curricular activities that occur within our school. While most of these activities are currently focused at our Year 4-6 students, there are a range of Early Years

opportunities and programs that will be occurring over 2015.

It is great to see almost 1/5 of our students participating in our Chess Club each Tuesday and Thursday. We are seeking more students from the upper school to join in to help build our school team in readiness for our first interschool competition next term.

The first round of our academic triathlon will be held on the last day of this term with students from Rosedale, Wartburg, Winfield, Lowmead and Discovery joining us for the morning. This is a numeracy round that Year 4-6 students will be eligible to nominate for.

Are your children into reading and have a great memory of the books they have read? Then Readers Cup is a great way to explore new and challenging novels. The interschool round of Readers Cup for Year 5 & 6 will be held in Term 2 at Gin Gin. We will be looking for 1 or 2 teams of four to represent our school at this competition.

The Boys AFL Gala Day for Year 5 & 6 will be held on Wednesday 1 March in Bundaberg. Mr Gourlay will begin lunch time training sessions in the next week for our boys. The girls will have their opportunity to shine in early Term 2.

Our Year 6's are currently invited to submit a design for this Year's Large Canvas Project. The winning design(s) will be used as a part of our school's submission for the annual art competition.

New to our school

Our school has recently invested in a new piece of software for our computer lab. AB Tutor is a management software that will enable teachers to master control all computers in our lab. This means we will be able to log onto all computers at once for younger students and open programs on all computers from one master computer in the lab. This will significantly enhance the time utilised in our main computer lab especially for our younger classes. It is hoped that this software will be fully operational by mid next week.

New assessment resources have been purchased to ensure that we can identify specific areas of

strength or difficulty for individual children in Literacy and Numeracy. These resources will be used as a part of our process in identifying extension opportunities and the development of targeted support programs.

As a school leader, I am committed to ensuring our practices are current and supported by research for best results. One way we are doing this in 2015 is through our membership with SPELD. SPELD is a leader in educational support programs and will be utilised as an information source for our entire staff. We are also supporting our teachers to look at practices beyond our school to help reduce the isolation of our school locality and ensure what we deliver at Agnes Water State School is just as good, if not better than the rest of the State.

I am safe

This week our school has again been focusing on our rule around 'I am safe'. It has been pleasing to see a reduction in physical behaviours across the school this week and more appropriate play during lunch breaks. Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Team will be leading explicit lessons in classes over the next few weeks to further reinforce our expectations as a school.

all settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ keep hands, feet and objects to self ➤ show self-control ➤ solve problems with words ➤ report any problems ➤ use equipment for its intended purpose ➤ use equipment safely ➤ sun safe at all times ➤ walk calmly and quietly
classroom/library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ put closed bag in the port rack ➤ sit on chair ➤ use equipment carefully ➤ ask permission to leave the room ➤ enter a classroom only when a teacher is present ➤ use computers/ Internet as per the school agreement ➤ four chair legs on the floor ➤ put equipment away ➤ follow classroom rules ➤ allow personal space ➤ keep tables/desks safely on floor

Play areas/PE

- wear broad-brimmed hat and covered shoes
- participate in school- approved games only
- leave sticks and stones on the ground
- play in the correct area – stay 'in' bounds
- play by the rules
- sun smart
- bike/Scooter/skateboard safety
- walk bikes /scooters/ skateboards on/outside the school grounds
- place skateboards in locker
- place bikes/scooters in bike racks

Head of Curriculum News

The last fortnight has been full of many interesting learning opportunities for our lovely students. We have had cross country training, guitar club, perceptual motor programs, chess club, choir, science experiments, Arts Council and much more. We have also implemented additional support for our Year 4's in Numeracy with our Principal running some of these groups to support these students. Agnes Water State School is an exciting place to learn and grow.

Continuing Explanation of the Australian Curriculum for Parents - from ACARA

(Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority)

The Australian Curriculum provides guidance to us to understand and implement the curriculum. It does not specify how the content must be taught. As a school, we use the Australian Curriculum to plan our learning in ways that respond to the requirements and needs of our school, and the needs and interests of our students. Teachers make important decisions about how to teach the content. At Agnes Water State School we are working together to create a whole school curriculum plan that is also relevant to our lovely town. Please feel free to offer advice and suggestions about what you would like to see valued in the way we present our curriculum to your children. It could be something as simple as environmental issues, local stories, etc. My email is ltank1@eq.edu.au and I look forward to your ideas.

Chess Club

Congratulations to the dedicated chess players who have been spending first play on Tuesday and Thursdays immersed in games of strategy and fun. All ages and ability levels have been participating, with many of the more experienced students encouraging and teaching the others. We are going to start choosing some teams to begin some friendly competitions and would love some parent assistance. If you are at a loose end between 10:55 and 11:20 on Tuesday or Thursday please stop by and make a difference. Everyone is welcome.

"Celebrate what you want to see more of." Tom Peters

Staff at our school are 100% dedicated to ensuring the time we spend with your lovely children is rich and meaningful. This fortnight I am celebrating the valuable work of our 3/4 teacher Ms McTague. Students in her class have been developing practical skills and critical thinking to create artworks through experimenting with various colours. The young artists predicted and carefully considered their design choices and patterns – be sure to ask them about primary, secondary and tertiary colours if your child is in this class. Students in this class have their learning supported through explicit lessons about our school rules each week. These lessons occur at the beginning of each week and are reinforced throughout each day to ensure that maximum learning is achieved. This deepens their understanding about the expectations of our school – this week's rule is "I am Safe." Ask your child this week what being safe means to them.

Please share what you see...email me at ltank1@eq.edu.au so we can keep ensuring that our children flourish.



Yours in Education,

Mrs Leigh Tankey

AGNES WATER DENTIST



UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform shop hours

Tuesday	8:30 – 9:00
Thursday	2:30 – 3:00

Uniform order can be obtained from the school website – www.agnewatess.eq.edu. Orders can be sent to the office to be filled.

Tuckshop News

2015 Menu

We have a larger selection of delicious fresh salads/sandwiches and wraps.

Beef Burritos (all prepared in Tuckshop) are a popular item on the menu.

Muffin Pizzas are made with ½ English Muffin and a choice of toppings – ideal for Preppies.

A big **THANK YOU** to the Parents/Grandparents who have volunteered for Tuckshop Roster this term – **Charlotte, Gloria, Simone, Helen and Heather** – your help is most appreciated.

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding Tuckshop, please contact me on 49749527 (Wed-Thur-Fri)

Debbie Ahern

Tuckshop Convenor





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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

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 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 7th 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 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"> School holidays Public holidays Flexible staff professional development days Staff professional development days School terms 	
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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

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

