



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative



Term Two Celebration Day

Our Celebration Day at the end of last term was a great success with thanks to Rob King and our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support team. Students had a wonderful time decorating kites and then learning how to fly them.

NAIDOC WEEK

During the first week of this term, our students acknowledged the importance of recognising the traditional custodians of the land. Students also participated in a range of art and bush tucker trail.



Year 4J Art Exhibition

Congratulations to Year 4J for a fantastic art exhibition on the last Wednesday of Term 2. It was wonderful to see so many parents join the class to celebrate their work.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Tues 28 July	UNSW English
Wed 5 Aug	Jeans for Genes Day
Mon 10 Aug	Year 6 Camp Parent Information Session 6pm
Tues 11 Aug	Inter-school Chess
Tues 11 Aug	UNSW Mathematics
Thurs 20 Aug	Book Fair
Fri 21 Aug	Book Fair
Sat 21 Aug	Opti-Minds Challenge
Mon 24 Aug	P&C Meeting
Fri 28 Aug	School Performance Tours
Mon 31 Aug	Parent Information Session – Prep 2016
Wed 2 Sep	School Photos
Wed 2 Sep	Father's Day Stall
Thur 3 Sep	School Photos
Thur 3 Sep	Father's Day Stall
Fri 4 Sep	Teacher Aide Day
Mon 7 Sep – Fri 11 Sep	Parent Teacher Meetings
Thurs 10 Sep	Prep Transition Day
Wed 16 Sep	Inter-school debating
Fri 18 Sep	Celebration Day

From the Principal

It is hard to believe we have already had two weeks back at school, but with all of the great learning that has been happening the days are just flying by. I am really excited about the leaps that individual students are making in their classrooms, showing that what we are doing at Agnes Water State School makes a big difference to student outcomes. One area that I am seeing some of our students really starting to take off is in their sight words and reading levels in the early years. This has been achieved by a targeted focus from all staff and the daily support of parents in reading and practising sight words at home. Sustaining these achievements will require the ongoing support from home and daily practice that is currently occurring. Just 10 minutes a day of one on one attention can make significant improvements in a child's achievement at school.

As a school we know the importance of early intervention and by the end of this year we will have provided additional one on one targeted work in Literacy to over 50% of our students in Prep to Year 2 for either extension or support, helping to ensure they are prepared for their future schooling. This support doesn't just come from our fantastic teachers and teacher aides, but our entire administration team. Our Head of Curriculum, Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy, Students with Disability staff and myself are working with these classes on almost a daily basis, helping to hone in on the individual and diverse learning needs of the students in our school.

Already this year we have furthered the types of support programs that we can offer to students in our school, not only academically, but socially as well.

Enhancing our professional practice is an ongoing process for our teachers. Teaching is more than just an occupation, it is a vocation, and something that takes a lifetime to master. This semester we will continue our teacher coaching processes, monitoring for curriculum alignment and professional development to support the growth of our staff. Our teachers recognise the need to sustain their currency in practice and many are already working towards further formal qualifications and participating in mentoring programs in their own time.

I look forward to a very exciting semester that builds on the work of the last six months.

Lifting Expectations

As we move rapidly through 2015, we will continue to clarify and build our expectations, not only of our students but also for ourselves.

One expectation that we will focus on and clarify is around student behaviours. We have seen a significant drop in major behaviours outside of the classroom as students continue to demonstrate our expectations of I am Safe, I am Respectful and I am Responsible. We will now focus on I am a Learner and the impacts that continual minor behaviours in the classroom have upon student learning. During Semester One our goal around Celebration Days was to have students participate. I provided a level of discretion around repeated minor behaviours to help build student motivation. From this semester, the expectations for repeated minor behaviours outlined in our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students will be enforced and taken into consideration for Celebration Days. Repeated minor behaviours can have a significant impact upon learning, not only for the student demonstrating the behaviours, but all other students in that class. This is why repeated minor behaviours are deemed as a major behaviour in our school. From this term, continued minor behaviours will have an impact upon individual student participation in our Celebration Days at the end of each term.

Head of Curriculum News

Welcome back to another term of exciting learning. Students started the term by 'Celebrating Sacred Ground' in a very special bush tucker walk as part of our NAIDOC week learnings. Classes participated in a walk organised by Miss Kate to identify different species of plants, and their uses, in our own school grounds. We learnt about the Banksia, Paperbark, Dianella and many more. Each class collaborated to create an information poster complete with sketches, maps and descriptions of the plants and these will be displayed in the office foyer. Students and staff were very excited to learn about the wealth of plants growing in our school – some students find it hard to walk past the Grevillia without shaking some nectar onto their hand! Specials thanks to Mrs Lisa Scott for organising the art activities for the week, and to Miss Kate for her enthusiasm and energy about learning in nature.

Plant Uses by Mia Poustie.

In the morning we went on a walk in the school bush. The first plant we saw was a Grevillia. It was a bright yellow, nectary sweet flower, and they can also be pink and red. If you dip it in water with a strainer the water will turn into cordial. The second plant was Dianella. It has beautiful purple flower and you can eat the fruit when the berries are big and bright purple. It also has leaves you can use for weaving beds, mats and blankets. Next we saw the Paperbark tree. Paperbark is very useful. It can be used for blankets, starting fires, shelter and underground ovens. If you put it in water it will turn soggy. Lastly we saw the Banksia. The flower was spikey and if you pull the spikes out, and you pull the top out, you can put it on fire and it will stay alight.

Homework Expectations

It is great to hear the positive feedback about how the homework matrix fits in with family life. Students are also very positive about the fact that they have choice in the decisions they make about their homework activities. Our teachers work very hard to ensure the homework is connected to the Australian Curriculum and is relevant to the learning needs of the class. Thank you for the part that you, as parents, play in supporting your child at home with their homework daily. The most valuable thing you can do is to put aside 10 to 15 minutes a day to enjoy a reading experience with them. The discussions that follow can take you anywhere and it is often the conversation that deepens their knowledge and broadens their context of the world around them. As a mother of three I know how hectic households can be, so I am always looking for ways to be inventive with our time. One strategy that worked for us to have the regular sight word exposure was to write the sight words on the tiles in the bathroom in whiteboard maker – quick and easy – and fun (although more work cleaning the bath for me!). Please discuss your child's homework with them, and see their teacher if you have questions. Students who are unable to complete homework at home will be supported at school to ensure they have every chance to succeed.

Yours in Learning,

Leigh Tankey

General News

OUR NEW NOTICE BOARD

Many thanks to our P&C Association for a new outdoor, weather proof noticeboard. The new board is located on the Prep walls beside the Uniform Shed. Check it out for P&C and school news.

E-Safety

On Wednesday 15 July our school hosted the CyberSmart program for students, staff and parents. These highly informative sessions outlined many of the current trends in social media, electronic device usage, new legislation to help protect children and operating safely online. The E-Safety Commission website: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> is a valuable resource for families, providing channels to report cyberbullying and information on how to manage apps and devices to provide security for your children. Each newsletter we will include a new section around E-Safety.

Transition into Prep

Over the next few months we will be extending our transition programs for Prep for 2016. We will be holding a transition morning on Thursday 10 September from 8:40am to 11:00am. The Agnes Water Kindy will be joining us for the morning and parents with enrolments for Prep in 2016 are also invited to join us.

We will also be running three morning sessions in Term 4 from 8:40 to 11:30am. 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 Prep's coming to visit us, we will be offering opportunities for our future school leaders in Year 5 to show their potential through a buddy program with the Kindy. From late August some of our Year 5 students will visit the Kindy on a Thursday morning to help build a buddy program and assist in the transition into our school.

On Monday 31 August, we will be holding a general information session about Prep from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in our Hall. This information session will focus around enrolment into Prep, expectations before entering Prep and offerings at Agnes Water State School.

Bus Lines

To help reduce congestion in our main walkways at the end of the school day and streamline our locations for our bus lines, we have relocated all bus lines to the lower eating area at the end of the day. This has been in trial for the last two weeks and has proven successful at this point in time.

Jeans for Genes

As a school it is important for us to value citizenship and contributions to society. Each year we choose one charitable organisation to support. This year we will be supporting Jeans for Genes. On **Wednesday 5 August** students are encouraged to wear jeans to school or something else denim and contribute a gold coin donation for the Jeans for Genes cause.

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Our Year 6 students will be attending the Queensland Symphony Orchestra on Friday 7 August with students from Winfield, Wartburg and Lowmead. This will be held in Gladstone and is a great opportunity for these students.

District Athletics

The district athletics carnival will be held on Thursday 6 August and Friday 7 August. 10, 11 and 12 year old students will be representing our school at this event. Nominations for this event are set from the Wide Bay District Sports. There are maximum numbers, minimum heights, distances and times required for each event. While a student may have come first at school in an event, if they did not meet the minimum distances or times for district, then they may not be

nominated. Information for students selected to represent our school will be provided prior to the end of next week.

Parent and Student Opinions

Parental and student input into how our school is currently operating and our future direction is very important. This year, parents and students will not only have the opportunity to provide feedback about school performance through the Opinion Survey, which closes on Friday 31 July, but will also have the opportunity to contribute to our future planning. Over the next few weeks, parents and students will be asked to make comment on several items including our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students, School Mission and a range of policies and targets for the next four years.

Parent Helpers Wanted

Our P&C are currently seeking one or a couple of parents to assist in coordinating our annual production of the Agnes Water phone book. If you have time or are willing to assist with this, please let one of our executives know or email pandc@agnewatess.eq.edu.au

Our 25th anniversary is sneaking up on us very quickly. We are planning an open day on Wednesday 18 November to commemorate this anniversary. The school is seeking a couple of keen parents to help in the planning of this event. If you would like to be involved please email principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

As a school, we always want to support local businesses and encourage parents to shop locally, however if families or any of your relatives happen to shop at Woolworths during the Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion, we do collect the stickers and sheets as we do receive free resources for our school.

Celebrating 25 Years of Education in Agnes Water

Did you know that 2015 is Agnes Water State School's 25th Birthday? We will be celebrating 25 Years of education in Term Four. We are seeking any old photos of the school and interesting stories from ex-students. If you have any history of this school could you please send it electronically to principal@agnewatess.eq.edu.au .

If photos could be scanned and sent, or send this in as a hard copy and we will scan these for you and return.

SCHOOL BANKING

Don't forget school banking is every Tuesday.



Dr. B. Kohli
Telephone number 1300 2 TREAT (1300 2 87328)
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Email : info@13002treat.com.au
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JUNIOR DRAMA GROUP

WEDNESDAY

4.30 – 5.30 pm

8 – 12 years old

Come along for some exciting drama, games and activities.



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E-Safety News

These are some of the most common social network tools that children use. Go to **e-safety information** to find out how you can set the security settings for each of these apps.

Games, apps and social networking



Children often don't tell adults about cyberbullying. They worry that adults might overreact – making the situation worse – and disconnect them from supportive friends and family. It's important to look out for signs that your child may be the target of cyberbullying or struggling for other reasons.

Cyberbullying occurs most commonly among older children and teens. For many, their online life is an important part of their social identity. They often fear that as a 'solution' to cyberbullying their parents might disconnect them from the internet, and so also disconnect them from their friends. This can prevent some teens from reporting cyberbullying issues. Some are also concerned that their parents will make cyberbullying issues worse.

Signs that your child is suffering from cyberbullying issues can include:

- changes in their personality, for example, becoming more withdrawn, anxious, sad or angry
- appearing more lonely or distressed
- unexpected changes in their friendship groups
- a decline in their school work
- changes in their sleep patterns
- avoidance of school or clubs
- a decline in their physical health.

If your child shows any of these signs, or other worrying and out of character behaviours, tell them you are worried and want to help. If they won't open up to you then other trusted adults may be able to talk to them. It's very important to keep a close eye on both their online and offline behaviour and keep them connected to supportive friends and family.

Cyberbullying can have negative academic, social and psychological outcomes, so providing support for children and young people who are involved in cyberbullying is critical. Helping your children to manage responses to negative online behaviour and keeping them connected to friends and family are important measures to help protect them from negative outcomes. Reassure them that you are there to support them, even if they have participated in part of the bullying.

As a parent there are many constructive ways that you can help your child and encourage them to take control of the issue.

- Talk to them about cyberbullying before it happens. Work out strategies to address any potential issues and reassure your child that you will be there to support them.
- Reassure your child that you won't block their access to the internet if they report concerns about cyberbullying.
- Help them to stay connected to supportive family and friends both online and offline.
- Advise your child not to reply to any messages from a bully. Often if bullies don't receive a response they will give up.
- Learn how to block a bully so they are no longer able to make contact with your child.
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages but to save the messages and details of the sender/s.
- Contact the website administrator or use the reporting function to ask for content to be removed or to report harassment.
- Talk to your child's school if cyberbullying involves another student. Schools often have a policy in place to help manage the issue.

Remember that if your child has been involved in cyberbullying and seems distressed or shows changes in behaviour it may be advisable to seek professional support, including through Kids Helpline.