



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

clever • skilled • creative

Have you checked out our Environmental Play lately?



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Mon 10 Aug	Year 6 Camp Parent Information Session 6pm
Tues 11 Aug	Inter-school Chess
Tues 11 Aug	UNSW Mathematics
Wed 19 Aug	Year 3/4M Excursion
Thurs 20 Aug	Book Fair
Thurs 20 Aug	Principal Meeting
Fri 21 Aug	Book Fair
Fri 21 Aug	Principal Meeting
Sat 22 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
Thurs 3 Sep	School Photos
Thurs 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

Environmental Play

There are many benefits to environmental play for children. In our school, environmental play is still one of the most selected choices of lunch time activities. It enables our children to;

- Take controlled risk.
- Build gross motor, fine motor and core strength.
- Establish active and meaningful role play.
- Problem solve and work in groups of various ages.
- Engage in active play each lunch break.

From the Principal

As most people are aware, NAPLAN has been the big news item in education this week. 2015 saw Queensland achieve its highest results to date. Our school had several successes of its own, with over 50% of our Year 3 students achieving in the top two bands of assessment in one or more areas, and over 30% of our Year 5 students achieving the same result. 2015 also saw our highest result to date in Year 3 reading since the commencement of NAPLAN. Our teachers and students are congratulated on the work in leading up to these results. There are lots of individual student success stories that go along with these results, where students have made individual growth of performance greater than national improvement rates. This reinforces the school's acknowledgement as being in the top 50 most improved schools last year. These results are cherished, however we also know that there are areas that we still want to do better in. One of our current whole of school agenda items is writing. Over the next 18 months, our school will focus our attention on improving student writing and help to provide a commonality in instructional processes across all of our classes. This will be based on the research of 7 Steps to Writing and 6+1 Traits of Effective Writers. Reading and Numeracy will continue to be big ticket items for us as we want to continue our direction forward, always setting our benchmarks for ourselves and our students that little bit higher.

At the very beginning of the year, I committed our school to a process of CREATE;

Consistency of practice

Reviewing our practices

Engaging opportunities for students

A focus on the positive and our core priority – learning

Targeted student support

Education in partnership

I am really pleased with the work undertaken by all of our staff in delivering these priorities. We have seen a significant shift with alignment of our practices in learning to read with clear and consistent phonics, sight word and word attack programs. We have an aligned spelling program that differentiates for the individual needs of each of our students across the school. Our targeted intervention programs have been rolled out over the year with significant positive impacts and we will extend this program in Term 4.

The opportunities for our students have been extended with a range of new programs for students to trial, including many new interschool competitions. The final area for our school to focus upon and one that will be ongoing is reviewing our practices. Last week we sent out the first of several surveys to families regarding enrolment, attendance and our mission. This is the first of several surveys that will assist our school in building a strong picture of what our parent community need from our school and enable us to focus on priority areas for improvement for 2016 – 2018.

I have appreciated the openness of parent feedback from this initial survey and look forward to high levels of responses in the coming surveys.

Head of Curriculum News

There is an old saying that it is the little things that can make the biggest difference, and time and time again at our lovely school this rings true. So many of the little things that go on behind the scenes contribute to the overall learning of your children. I see it daily with our tireless, cheerful teacher aides gently coaxing the very best reading out of our students, our ground-person Gerry volunteering his time to motivate our school chess team with strategies and moves, our dedicated administration team knowing so much about every student in our school - and going above and beyond every day to help them feel safe and flourish at our school. All of the little things we do, piece together to make a very big, beautiful picture - and that results in the education of your children.

This week, instead of celebrating the work of just one teacher I am celebrating the work of our team. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to making sure every minute we spend with your children will ensure they learn and grow. Teachers don't often like the spotlight being shone on what they do - they prefer to soldier on and say it is all part of the job. I am happy to shine the light on them! On top of working normal school hours teaching and motivating learners, they are here before and after school for hours planning relevant and engaging learning activities designed to deliver the Australian Curriculum in innovative ways. They reflect with each other, myself and our Master Teacher on ways they can improve the way they deliver their lessons. They research educational initiatives to ensure the reason

we use our programs is aligned to the needs of our students. On top of play ground duties they also use spare lunchtimes to coach netball and AFL, teach gardening and run events like Agnes has Talent. They design homework that will enrich and enhance family life, while teaching children valuable life skills and reinforcing the curriculum. They deliver the Australian Curriculum in a context that suits our community - just last week our year 4 class spent a lovely morning on the beach planting over 60 trees to regenerate the environment on our coastline, our Reef Guardian connection has seen the year 6 students deliver videos on conservation, our whole school created an information board on the bush tucker trail we have in our school. Our chess team has doubled in size over the last term and we now have nearly half of our year six class travelling to Bundaberg again to compete with children from our area. It is very exciting as both a teacher and mum, that our children have access to such a rich, well rounded education in a school where strengths are built upon and celebrated, and needs are known and seen as opportunity to improve.

A skill that we have been working on in the oral language component of our English curriculum is how to give a vote of thanks. I have had some very pleasant conversations with parents who have been given a vote of thanks for cooking dinner that night! If you would like to practice this with your children it goes as follows: "On behalf of.....I would like to thank you..... for..... I would like to show my appreciation with acclamation." I look forward to hearing more stories and welcome suggestions about how we can make our wonderful school even better for you.

Mrs Leigh Tankey

Head of Curriculum

UNSW Competitions

The final University of New South Wales Competition for Mathematics will be held this Tuesday morning. The first set of results have started coming back to our school from the first rounds of competitions. This international competition is hotly contested and much of the content that students engage with is previously unseen, testing students ability to apply previous knowledge to new situations. Congratulations to Luca Bowe who received a Distinction, Lachlan

Buchanan who received a Merit Award and Katie Howard who also received a Merit Award.

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 Preps 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

Many thanks to our students and staff for their fundraising efforts for the Jeans for Genes Day held on Wednesday. Our school raised over \$200 for Childhood Medical Research.

District Athletics

Congratulations to our students who represented our school at the District Athletics Carnival yesterday and today. I am pleased to hear about the wonderful sportsmanship displayed by these students, not only supporting our own school, but students from other schools in the area.

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.



Agnes Water Dental

Dr. B. Kohli

Telephone number 1300 2 TREAT (1300 2 87328)

2 Rafting Ground Road,
Agnes Water, QLD 4677
Email : info@13002treat.com.au
Fax : 07 3343 5599



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SCHOOL BANKING
Don't forget school banking is every Tuesday.



Dollaramites



Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy

Agnes Water Community Centre

Thursday, August 27

9.30am to 10.15am: Join Councillors for morning tea and an informal chat

10.15am to noon: Book a 20 minute meeting to discuss issues or ideas

To book a appointment please phone 4977 6803 or email councillorconnect@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

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E-Safety News



Click on the icon to view an information page on each of these social media apps.



Chat and social networking are great ways to stay in touch and find new friends. However, there are some risks meeting people online—especially if you don't know them in real life. When you share things online you may be sharing with other people you do not know or trust. Once a message, photo or video has been shared, you also won't be able to control where it goes.

What do I need to know about safe social networking?

- Limit your friend list — don't 'friend' random people.
- Protect your privacy — don't share your password and set your profile to private.
- Your personal details are valuable — don't share them.
- Protect your reputation — keep it clean and ask yourself: would you want others to see what you upload?
- Be careful who you trust — a person can pretend to be someone they are not.
- Don't use a webcam with people you do not know.
- Think before you post, chat, upload or download.

How do I control my privacy settings?

All social networking sites have their own version of 'default' privacy and security settings. It is important that you know how the site works and how to change the settings to protect your personal information. The Games, apps and social networking section of the safety website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> gives you access to step-by-step instructions to control your settings for each social networking platform.

What are the risks of social networking?

The risks in using social networking sites include:

- Anonymity — it can be easier to say and do things online that you might not do offline.
- Sharing too much information — for example, photos from a party might be okay for close friends to see but can become an issue if shared more widely.
- Not protecting your personal information — account details and location information can be used inappropriately by others to find you or access your online accounts. It is important that you understand the risks associated with disclosing information about yourself online and know how to manage both your privacy and online friends.
- Treating online friends as real friends — it's easy for people to lie online, including those who are seeking children and young people for more than a social relationship. Make sure you are careful about how well you really know your online 'friends'.

What are location-based services?

Many social networking sites take advantage of location-based services, which enable users to report their physical location to others via their mobile phone. By using this function, users can physically locate friends and others from social networking sites. Individuals can 'check-in' from a location to let others know their whereabouts.

On some social networking services the location-based functions are turned on by default. To manage these services, and retain your privacy, review your social networking settings to block the function or to limit who sees your location-based information.