



AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Our students demonstrated great decorum and respect during our school and community ANZAC Day services. Our Captains again represented our school with pride at the Dawn Service with their reading of the poem 'We are All Australians Now', by AB Patterson.



The 2016 AFL Gala Days were another huge success, with the demonstration of sportsmanship and utter determination by our students. Congratulations to our girls for making it into this week's finals.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Mon 2 May	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wed 4 May	Mothers' Day Stall
Thurs 5 May	Mothers' Day Stall
Fri 6 May	Year 2/3 Local History Excursion
Tues 10 May	NAPLAN
Wed 11 May	NAPLAN
Thurs 12 May	NAPLAN
Mon 16 May	High School Readiness Information Session – 9:45am Agnes Water
Mon 16 May	P&C Meeting
Tues 17 May	UNSW Digital Technologies
Thurs 19 May	Principal Business Meeting
Fri 20 – Sun 22 May	1770 Festival
Thurs 26 May	Bundaberg Show Holiday
Fri 27 May	Under 8's Day
Tues 31 May	UNSW Science
Thurs 2 Jun	High School Readiness Information Session 2 – 2:00pm Agnes Water
Fri 3 Jun	Academic Triathlon Debating Day 1
Tues 7 Jun	Twilight Teacher PD
Fri 10 Jun	Spectra Science Fair
Mon 13 Jun	UNSW Writing
Wed 15 Jun	UNSW Spelling
Tues 14 Jun	A Slice of Vaudeville Performance
Mon 20 Jun	P&C Meeting
Wed 22 Jun	Report Cards sent home
Wed 22 Jun	Celebration Day
Thurs 23 Jun	Athletics Carnival Day 1
Fri 24 Jun	Athletics Carnival Day 2
Fri 24 Jun	Last day of Term 2
Saturday 25 June to Sunday 10 July Winter Vacation	
Mon 11 July	School Resumes Term 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This morning on parade, I took the opportunity to discuss school pride. I have been so impressed lately with the way that students are representing our school in the public at official events such as ANZAC Day, the recent AFL Gala Days and the Daniel Morcombe presentation. School Pride is shown by the way we speak about our school and its achievements, the way students and staff dress not only at school but while representing our school in public, it is the behaviours that we show that reflect the values of our school community and it is also about how we get behind each and support each other.

Not only are our students showing Pride of our school outside in the community, but also at school in the way that they are showing respect to each other and valuing learning. While this month was a few days shorter at school, on average it has been the best month we have had in student behaviour since the start of 2014, with only 4 major behaviours for the entire month and one of our lowest for minor behaviours. I commend our students for these behaviours and thank parents for your commitment and support to your children which makes our school a wonderful place to work and learn.

As a school we have another opportunity coming up to actively promote our wonderful students and school. This will be at the 1770 Festival. At the street march we will be seeking as many students as possible to come dressed as a clown or circus performer to be part of the street march on Saturday 21 May. The theme for the 1770 Festival is Circus, so we will be marching in as a troupe of circus performers on the day. Further information about this event will be coming home over the next couple of weeks.

NAPLAN

From Tuesday 10 May, students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be participating in NAPLAN. This assessment looks at reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy skills. These tests are an important way for schools to help ensure consistency and comparability in these areas, however it must always be remembered that this is only one form of assessment and doesn't look at all of the ways that children can be successful as learners. Therefore, while these tests are important and do provide comparability across schools, as teachers we draw on more than NAPLAN and look for other ways that students can demonstrate their knowledge in the classroom when we report home to parents at the end of each Semester.

NAPLAN can be very exciting for some students, but for others it can be a nervous experience. As parents you can help to prepare your child for these tests by making sure they get a good night sleep before each test and they have a good breakfast before coming to school. We will again be offering pancakes before the tests on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for our Year 3 and 5 students. The tests will be held in the year 3/4 classroom for Year 3's and the Year 5/6A classroom for Year 5's.

Congratulations Mrs Heenan

Mrs Keryn Heenan has recently been appointed to the position of Head of Department – Positive Behaviour for Learning at Northern Peninsula Area State College in Bamaga. Mrs Heenan will be taking up this position from Monday 23 May until the end of the school year. While it will be sad to see Mrs Heenan leave for a while, we are very fortunate to be joined by Mrs Dawn Morton who will be taking our 2/3B class. Mrs Morton comes highly recommended with wonderful teaching experience in the Year 2/3 area. Mrs Morton will begin working with Mrs Heenan over the next few weeks to help ensure a successful transition between teachers.

Code of Dress

It is expected that students at Agnes Water State School wear their school uniform each day as per our Code of Dress that parents and students agree to upon enrolment in our school. In each instance, when a student is not in uniform for any suitable reason a letter must be provided by parents explaining the circumstances. We are starting to see many students wearing additional jewellery, nail polish and coming to school without a broad brim / bucket hat. Students wearing jewellery outside of the Code of Dress will be asked to hand this into the office and will be able to collect at the end of the school day. Students with nail polish will be provided the opportunity to remove before the next school day or nail polish remover will be available from the school office.

It is highly imperative that all students bring a suitable broad brim blue hat or blue bucket hat each school day, whether they plan to play or go to the Library. Each class does some form of outdoor activity on most days and students require their hat for these activities.

Sometimes parents are unaware when their child has arrived at school out of uniform. To assist parents, if a child is observed being out of uniform a notice will be provided to parents and will need to be returned signed the next school day. A copy of our Code of Dress is available on our school website under enrolment – www.agnetatess.eq.edu.au.

Attendance

We are continuing to sustain our highest average attendance rate at 91.33% with 100% of any absences explained. While this is fantastic, absences other than illness still form our largest percentage of student absences. These absences are the ones that we have greatest control over. Our attendance rate, while on the rise, is still below the State Average. Our target is to reach an average 93% attendance rate before the end of the school year and attendance by every student, everyday will help us to achieve this.

WHAT A CHALLENGE

The challenge: For Ms Hartley to engage 25 year 5/6 boys and 4 girls in learning while the rest of the girls were at AFL in Bundy. **Challenge accepted.**

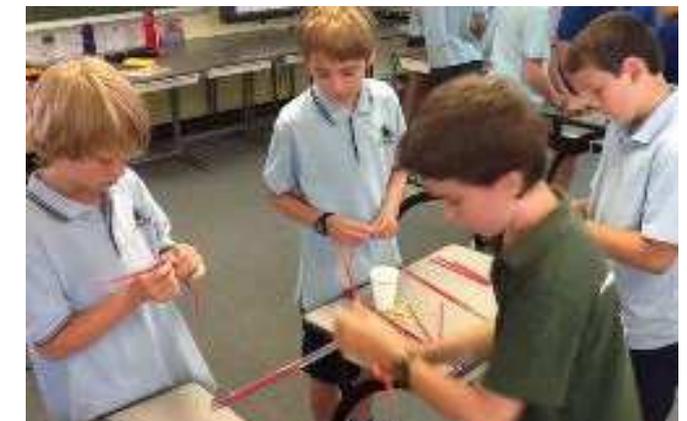
We began the day with Wacky Relays to get hearts pumping and coordination started. A lot of laughter and grass-stained knees later, it was back to class for a short relaxation session to settle and focus. Then I hit them with poetry.

"Are you crazy?!" I hear you gasp. But yes, a poem called Dead Man's Blood by Peter Bradbury kept their attention. It is a fine example of how an author can show rather than tell what they want you to imagine – something both Year 5/6 classes have been working to apply to their own writing. Students then had to complete a storyboard using the reading strategy of visualising what the poem was about (one interesting theory involved a tiger and I could easily see why the student inferred that).

Morning tea flew by. Enter Mrs Cook, teacher aide, theatre group director and Opti-minds guru. Brilliant. The challenge for students: To construct a suspension bridge which could span a distance of at least 30cm and hold 5 matchbox cars for 30 seconds using only straws, pipe cleaners, matchsticks and blue tac. For some, the biggest challenge was to work collaboratively in a team of 4, but the task soon had everyone engrossed and cooperating successfully. You can see some of their examples below. Lunch snuck up on us and then LOTE and music followed. Challenge complete.



Ms Hartley



GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

Mothers' Day Stall

Our Mothers' Day Stall will be held in our school hall on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 May in our afternoon sessions. On Wednesday 4 our Early Years classes including Year 2/3 classes will be visiting the stall, while our Year 3/4 to Year 6 classes will visit on Thursday afternoon. There will be a range of market stalls for students to purchase from on the afternoons. Items range in price from a couple of dollars up to about \$10. The Mothers' Day stall is a service organised by our P&C association.

Bundaberg Show Holiday

While our school operates in the Gladstone Regional Council, it forms part of the Bundaberg schooling area and is aligned with services that are supported from Bundaberg, including bus transportation and our feeder high school of Rosedale. It also aligns with the Agnes Water Childcare who have operated the Bundaberg Show Holiday as a public holiday in the past. Our school investigated the options of moving our show holiday last year, however the impacts of this outweighed remaining with the Bundaberg show holiday as the school has done for the last 25 years. Agnes Water State School will be closed on Thursday 26 May for the Bundaberg Show Holiday and will be open in August during the Gladstone Show Holiday.

P&C AGM

Unfortunately not all positions were filled at our P&C AGM last term. The position of Secretary is still to be filled and is an important part of ensuring the ongoing viability of our P&C. We will also be looking for a treasurer later in the school year. Without a full executive, we lose all of our P&C Funding, are not able to undertake fundraising and will have to close our tuckshop. The P&C is also an important part of ensuring transparency of school operations in our school and a valuable way for parents to provide feedback to the school. If you are able to assist with our P&C association please do not hesitate to contact the school as soon as possible.

HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

Ideas for Writing

Our dedicated Agnes Water team of educators have been working hard to implement the elements of our core school writing program – 'Seven Steps to Writing Success.' Each staff meeting teachers walk themselves in the shoes of our students and try different activities to get the most out of our writing – we are always finding ways to improve our practice. Many of our teachers use this new knowledge and implement it in their classrooms the very next day. One strategy that I have talked about before is the 'Show, Not Tell' where writers have to find alternative words to use. The

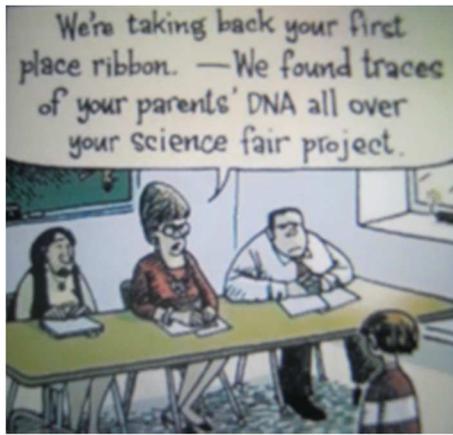
following piece is from Bella Robinson in 3/4 – she is describing a character in the class novel *The BFG*. Stomp! Stomp! Stomp! The tall, smiley thing was coming my way!! I wanted to scream but my sister would wake up. I ran outside to see him more. He had a belt around his waist and his ears were like trampolines. I went back up to bed and tried to go back to sleep. It was no good!!!! Congratulations Bella on producing such a descriptive and engaging piece of writing. I want to read more and find out what happens next!

If you want to work on improving writing at home one really fun thing to do is to create a 'Brainstorming Chatterbox'. This helps with coming up with ideas as often the hardest part of writing is just beginning. This week I worked with the lovely 2/3 class to brainstorm all of the possible heroes, villains, settings and problems that could occur. We brainstormed in groups and they came up with fire-breathing dragons and evil robot mice and courageous princesses being lost in chocolate factories or stuck on top of roller coasters. We had a lot of fun and as a result the students were eager to write their stories. If you would like a copy of the template please email me and I will happy send you one. Or, you could ask the lovely learners in 2/3 to share theirs with you.

SPECTRA Science Extension Program

What an excited and motivated group of budding young scientists we have in our school. Every day I have two or three students finding me to proudly show me what they have done or ask me questions about their science topic card. Each Friday I will visit the classrooms to see their work. Once they complete an activity they can place it with their topic card in the special science box I have placed in their classrooms. I will come around each Friday and look at their work and sign off their card. They can take the card home again ready to complete their next lot of work. They keep all of the work they do ready for display at the Science Fair in week 9.

Please remember that you can email me their work, or a photo of their work (some may be too big to bring in). If you need anything printed out or need access to a photocopier I am happy to do that for you. The wonderful outcome of this sort of extension work is that it can be done as a family. It is not a piece of formal assessment so parents are very welcome to help research and show how to present their work on a poster or diorama or clay model. The cartoon below is the opposite of the message we are sending about our Science Expo – hope it makes you smile.

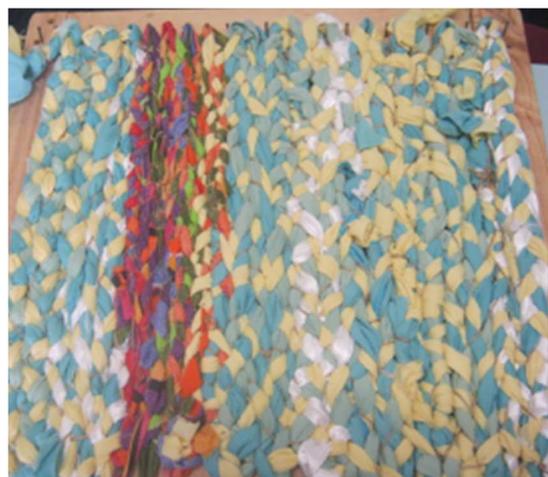


“Celebrate what you want to see more of.” Tom Peters

This week I am celebrating the efforts of our talented music teacher, Mr Henson. He has dedicated so much of his talent and energy into spreading the joy of music with our children. He regularly devotes lunch times to teaching choir, and recently coordinated the very successful event, ‘Agnes Has Talent.’ His love of the Arts means that our given the chance to be creative in so many ways. Thanks Mr Henson!

Special Thanks

Over the past few months we have had an enthusiastic team of rug-makers spend time at lunch ripping, plaiting and weaving recycled material to create a rug. This rug will be sent to be sewn onto many other recycled rugs to become a part of a record attempt at creating the largest recycled rug in Australia. This could not have been made possible without the big team effort of students and staff. Special thanks to Amanda Baker and Mel Cooper for helping us stitch the rug together. We are also very grateful to The Men’s Shed for their kind donation of the weaving frames. Mrs Kim Cooke, one of our local talented photographers has also been invaluable with her advice and encouragement. It has proven to be more than just creating something lovely – it has taught students valuable lessons about sustainability, creativity, team-work and persistence. Well Done everyone!



Please share what you see – we welcome feedback about your child’s education...email me at ltank1@eq.edu.au so we can all benefit from the wealth of knowledge in this lovely community.

Yours in Learning,
Mrs Leigh Tankey



Agnes Water Tennis with Ange Draheim

Tennis lessons before school have now recommenced with Ange at the school. Lessons are also available at Ange’s court on Bicentennial Drive after school on a Tuesday. Lessons are \$10 each session. For bookings please contact Ange on 0409 971 401.

Soccer at Captain Creek

Soccer has recommenced with Mandy Bassard at Captain Creek Sport Reserve on Tuesday Afternoons from 3:30pm to 5pm. The school bus can drop off at the venue. Please contact Mandy for registration or further information on:

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2016 school calendar

Queensland state schools



DECEMBER 2015	JANUARY 2016	FEBRUARY	MARCH
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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
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DECEMBER	JANUARY 2017	<p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School terms School holidays Public holidays Staff professional development day Flexible staff professional development day 	
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There are 194 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, April 6-8, 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 (July 2015) but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit www.education.qld.gov.au

