



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

## 1770 Festival and Art Show

It was wonderful to see the community spirit of our students and staff at this year's 1770 Festival and Art Show. Students and staff participated in the re-enactments, choir, street parade, community performances, contributed to the Art Show and volunteered over the weekend.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Fri 27 May	Under 8's Day
Tues 31 May	UNSW Science
Wed 1 Jun	Keppock SHS Overnight Camp
Thurs 2 Jun	High School Readiness Information Session 2 – 2:00pm Agnes Water
Tues 7 Jun	Twilight Teacher PD
Thurs 9 Jun	Principal Meeting
Fri 10 Jun	Spectra Science Fair
Mon 13 Jun	UNSW Writing
Tues 14 Jun	A Slice of Vaudeville Performance
Wed 15 Jun	UNSW Spelling
Fri 17 Jun	Science Fair
Sat 18 Jun	Seven Steps in Writing Training (teachers)
Mon 20 Jun	P&C Meeting
Mon 20 Jun	Academic Triathlon Debating Day 1
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
Tues 26 July	Parent Information Session – Rosedale P-12 School
Fri 29 July	P&C - Walkathon
Fri 5 Aug	Dinosaur Science – School Performance Tours
Fri 5 Aug	QUT – Secondary School Readiness Day
Thurs 11 Aug	Queensland Symphony Orchestra Visit
Mon 15 Aug	Buy a Bale – Year 6 Fundraising Initiative



### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Every child is an individual. They learn in different ways, at different rates, have very different personalities, present with very different value sets and come to school with a varied backpack of personal circumstances. Not that long ago in teaching, the level of difference of individuals was not overly considered. However as we begin to understand and acknowledge the impact this has upon a child's success at school, teachers and schools are presented with the challenge to balance the needs of individual learners, with fiscal restrictions and staff burnout while trying to meet the needs of 25 or more individuals at once.

I am proud of the staff in our school and the work they undertake to cater for the differences of our children, from the most simple but intentional decisions about where a child sits in a class through to full variations of curriculum expectations for a child while engaging them in the learning environment of their peers. As outlined in our last newsletter, the results of our current support programs and interventions speak for themselves. However, I am always challenged by the idea of "whatever it takes" to see a child be successful. This challenge has become even more important for us, not only in the school but as a wider community to address the needs within our schools. This was highlighted through two recent programs that I have been engaged in. Three pieces of information presented the most significant challenge for me;

1. In schools we officially recognise an average 3-5% of our student population as having some form of disability impacting their success in mainstream learning. However the reality in society is that 20%-30% of our population are formally or informally identified as having a disability that impacts daily upon their lives.
2. The academic success of girls, is strongly linked to teenage pregnancy. For each teenage pregnancy, there is an associated cost of \$15 000 000 to our economy.
3. 20% of the working population of adults are currently experiencing some form of mental health concern such as depression

or anxiety and 45% of all people will experience some form of depression or anxiety over their lifetime.

It is facts such as these, that drives our school to continue our advocacy for increased services in our community and look for other ways that we can enhance the support for our students beyond the classroom to ensure every child is successful in their life. Through the advocacy of our Guidance Officer, Mel Spencer and the Discovery Coast Health Alliance, funding has been obtained to engage psychology support locally for our youth. Through our partnership with Royal Far West we are about to embark on a new support mechanism looking at group sessions for students who are experiencing high levels of anxiety. We are continuing to receive recently unmatched support for families and children from Birth to Five, through the assistance of BUSHkids. As a school we are reflecting on the most common challenges of the children in our care and the ever increasing lack of resiliency contributing to student anxiety and difficulty in conflict resolution. We are seeking ways to help overcome these challenges for our students, through partnerships with KidsMatter, and programs such BRAVE and SAS. We not only want to support our most vulnerable, but help contribute to an entire school population that is resilient and prepared to tackle the challenges that life throws our way.

### **Uniforms**

As we enter the cooler months of the year, it is a reminder to parents and students that school uniform requirements still apply. Denim does not form part of our school uniform. Students are also expected to wear a navy blue jumper. School jumpers can be purchased from the school and we often have second hand jumpers available for sale. Target and Kmart regularly sell plain blue jumpers and tracksuits at very low costs which are also suitable for school. We had very few incidences of students being out of uniform last year during winter and I would like to improve upon this in 2016. In the office, I have a range of spare blue jumpers that I am prepared to loan out to students for the day if they do not have a blue jumper to wear to school.

Parents are also asked to help in ensuring that students are coming to school with the correct hat. Our Code of Dress requires a broad brim blue hat.

### **Leaders in our Community**

I was very proud of our students on the weekend and their community mindfulness in becoming engaged in the 1770 Festival, whether it was through the school float, other community floats or performances over the course of the weekend. I was even glowing when I had feedback from community members about the leadership undertaken by several of our Year 6's during the weekend. One such piece of feedback was how a parent was very happy that a Year 6 student had helped her Prep child on the climbing wall. While with his friends, this Year 6 student helped guide the Prep student with his foot placement and giving him encouragement as he climbed the wall. It is these values that as parents we want for our children and as a school we work to develop in our students. I am so impressed to see the behaviours that we see in the school exhibited while in the community.

### **GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **School Performance Tours**

On Tuesday 14 June, our school will be joined by illusionist and performer, Alan Sloggett. Alan challenges his audience, right before their eyes with illusions that get their young brain cells working, trying to work out what actually happened in the seemingly impossible illusions they witness. Positive messages abound throughout the show. Healthy eating, playing nicely, the importance of friends and being a good friend are all explored in various segments of this entertaining, visual show. Permission forms were sent home early this week. Parents can pay in cash to the school office or via electronic payment as described on the individual invoices provided.

#### **Buy a Bale**

On Monday the 15 August 2016, we will be coordinating a Buy a Bale fundraiser for farmers in Australia who are continuing to be in a drought declared situation. On this day, students are encouraged to come in their best farmer outfit with a gold coin donation. All funds raised will go

towards the Buy a Bale program to help all Australian Farmers who help Australian products stay on the shelves.

Jake Meakes and Axl Bennet

### **Disco**

On Friday 3 June our school will be holding a Pyjama Disco in our hall. The night is broken into two sessions; 5:00pm – 6:15pm for our Prep to Year 2 Students and 6:15pm to 7:30pm for our Year 3 to Year 6 students. A sausage sizzle, drinks and glow sticks will be on sale during the night. Cost of entry is a gold coin. The disco is a no pass out event, requiring students to be signed in and out of the disco. Parents and **younger siblings** are welcome to stay for the disco. We are also seeking parent helpers to assist with sales and the sausage sizzle.

### **Thank you to our P&C Association**

Our school is very fortunate to have a supportive school community and P&C Association that contribute significantly each year to programs within our school. In most school years, the P&C Association will contribute around \$20 000 for programs and resourcing that wouldn't be accessible without the P&C's support. This year our P&C have helped the school through asset replacement and infrastructure enhancements. Through the support of the P&C we have just replaced our ride-on mower with an \$11000 donation from the P&C and installed \$3500 worth of new wall mounted fans into our hall. Thank you.

### **HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS**

#### **Ideas for Reading and Sight Words**

Our school uses the Magic 100 sight word program that is based on the research that there are one hundred frequently occurring words that make up around half of what we read and write. It truly is magical to spend time in both of our prep rooms watching them discover the joy of reading. This is the time to really cement this learning through work at home. Through daily practice of sight words children develop automaticity and this in turn enables them to read more fluently, and most importantly, comprehend. This daily practice doesn't have to be an onerous task – in fact it can be quite fun! Each week check the sight word list your child is

learning. Write them on index cards or cut up some cardboard and stick them up in places your child will go past. Eg as they walk down the hallway they have to say each word as they pass it, write them in chalk on the steps and everyone in the family has to say it as they use the stairs, write them on the trampoline in chalk and every time they jump on the words they can yell it out. The trick is to fit the learning into home life. I know I have shared it before, but writing their sight words in a sentence on the tiles in the bathroom works really well. They can wash the word off the tile as they say it (cleaning and learning – win win!). One of the very best ways to reinforce the word is to have a sight-word hunt – challenge them to find certain words in books when you read to them each day, or even when you are out and about. A little bit each day really does make the world of difference. Let me know what ideas work in your home – I'd love to share them.

### **SPECTRA Science Extension Program**

It is exciting to see the amount of keen scientists finding me in the school each day to tell me about their latest science experiment. Thank you so much for supporting this at home – we appreciate this opportunity for learning. If you aren't able to send the big projects in each week, that's OK, I can sign them off at the Science Fair so your child gets their special badge and certificate. You can also email me a picture of their work. As the Science Fair is getting closer (Friday 17th June) start having discussions with your child about what they would like their display area to look like. They will be able to have a table to suit their project size and will be able to hang their posters and written work on the front. As I have been checking off their work I have been letting them know the sorts of things they can bring in. Their work has been fabulous and they should all be very proud.

### **Under Eight's Day**

A big thank you to all of our staff and parents for making sure our Under Eight's Day was such a huge success. The smiles on the faces of the little ones made it very worthwhile.

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

This week I am celebrating the efforts of our lovely Year 3/4 teachers Mrs Amy Stuth and Mrs Kylie Rupp. The children in this class are truly fortunate to have this special combination of teachers who care so much about their learning. Their classroom is a hub of colour and learning, poetry and art. They celebrate individuality and differences, allowing children to grow and learn in their own unique ways.

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

Yours in Learning,  
Mrs Leigh Tankey

### **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:

**4974 7186**

### **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.