



# AGNES WATER STATE SCHOOL

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clever • skilled • creative

## Working Together

Our Enviro Play area continues to be a popular play space for our children and encourages creative role play. We see on average a fifth of our school playing in this area every day. Our Prep students recently engaged in making gardens for sale, a few of girls were busy creating a dust factory, while many of our other students continued to expand their elaborate cubby constructions.



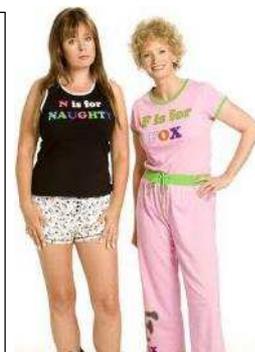
## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
Mon 13 Jun	UNSW Writing
Tues 14 Jun	A Slice of Vaudeville Performance
Wed 15 Jun	UNSW Spelling
Thurs 16 Jun	Daggy Dress Day – Year 6 Fundraiser
Fri 17 Jun	Spectra 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
Thurs 21 July	CPR Training Year 5/6
Tues 26 July	Parent Information Session – Rosedale P-12 School
Thurs 28 July	CPR Training Year 3/4
Fri 29 July	P&C - Walkathon
Thurs 4 Aug	QUT – Secondary School Readiness Day
Fri 5 Aug	Dinosaur Science – School Performance Tours
Thurs 11 Aug	Queensland Symphony Orchestra Visit
Mon 15 Aug	Buy a Bale – Year 6 Fundraising Initiative
Sat 10 Sep	Trivia Night Fundraiser

## IT'S BACK!!!!

After the hugely successful Daggy Dress Day in 2015, the Year 6's have laid down the challenge for an even daggier dress day on Thursday 16 June.

Students are encouraged to come dressed in their daggiest clothes for the day, however as a penalty for not being in uniform have to provide a gold coin donation for the Year 6 camp.



Source:  
<http://img.photobucket.com>



## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**



Schools are a community and in any community there is always great diversity in its members and their lives. It is this diversity that often becomes a flash point for confrontation.

As parents we always want to protect and shelter our children, however life is messy and full of challenges. As parents it is our role to help our children navigate these challenges. One of these challenges is understanding the reason and way that others may behave towards us or act in general, in other words, building empathy.

Empathy is, at its simplest, awareness of the feelings and emotions of other people. It is a key element of Emotional Intelligence, the link between self and others, because it is how we as individuals understand what others are experiencing as if we were feeling it ourselves.

Empathy goes far beyond sympathy, which might be considered 'feeling for' someone. Empathy, instead, is 'feeling with' that person, through the use of imagination.

When confrontation occurs amongst children, or they witness behaviours that are less than desirable, it is the perfect time to assist in learning about empathy and acknowledging many of the behaviours that children demonstrate are symptomatic of their environment and what they have already faced in their own, short lives.

As a school we take the expectations around behaviour and application of consequences seriously, but it is always important that we reflect upon why these behaviours first occur with empathy. It is in this way that we grow as a school community and become more supportive to help address the issues that first lead to these behaviours. I encourage families to make empathy a dinner table discussion over the next month. For more information about empathy and developing empathy in children please read the article attached from Harvard Graduate School of Education or visit:

<http://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/files/gse-mcc/files/empathy.pdf?m=1448054555>

## **Uniforms**

After recently seeing an increase of students wearing incorrect uniform and jewellery, we have been discussing with students the importance of wearing their correct uniform, particularly for our upper school who set the example for the rest of the school. While wearing a uniform doesn't impact upon student academic performance, it does create a sense of belonging, ownership and pride in a school. I want our students to be proud of our school, just as I am and reflect this in every way possible in our community. Wearing our full school uniform is one of the best ways to do this.

I was really pleased with what I observed today as I visited each class around the school. I could count on one hand the number of students who were not in full uniform across the entire school and these were only small things. Our entire cohort of Year 5/6 students were also in full school uniform setting this example. Congratulations everyone, it would be fantastic to see 100% of our students in full school uniform every day.

## **Behaviour Celebration Day**

Our Behaviour Celebration Day on Wednesday 22 June is fast approaching. Celebrating and acknowledging the majority of students who continue to show positive behaviours across our school is very important. Our Behaviour Celebration Day is my reward for students who continue to demonstrate our school's expectations over the school term. Invitations to our Term 2 Behaviour Celebration Day will be sent home this week. A full curriculum program will be offered at school for those students ineligible to attend.

Students have had the opportunity to nominate a movie of preference this term. We had over 2/3 of our school wanting to see Finding Dory. To be able to offer two different films, would have required a close to even split of students. Due to the majority preference for Finding Dory, we will be only offering this film for our Celebration Day.

## **GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Report Cards**

Semester One Report Cards will be sent home in a sealed envelope with the oldest in each family by Wednesday 22 June. Each year, parents will be provided two formal reports about the progress of their children. These reports are not cumulative and only report on the demonstrated achievement from the given semester. Each semester we assess different content and skills and this will often be done in different ways, so caution is emphasised when comparing student achievement on reports from one semester to the next. A small drop in result from one report to the next, does not necessarily indicate decreasing performance, it can be a reflection of preference of assessment type or engagement with the particular content from the semester. This can also occur in the first Semester of the year as students adjust to the increased expectations of the new-year level. It is important to monitor this though for trends in achievement across several reporting periods.

A "C" result is what we expect of our students. It is an acknowledgement that students are operating at the required National Level of the Australian Curriculum.

Our next parent-teacher meetings are scheduled for the end of Term 3, however if parents wish to speak to their child's teacher about the Semester One report card before then, individual appointments can be made at the commencement of Term 3.

### **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. Payment and permission was due on Friday, however Parents can still pay in cash to the school office.

Permission forms and money must be received prior to school start Tuesday 14 June.

### **Debating**

A dozen of our Year 5/6 students will be attending Discovery Christian College on Monday 20 June for the part of our debating competition. This day is a training day only, where students will learn some of the basics of debating and have a chance to interact with students from around our cluster of schools. At the start of Term 3, students will be placed into formal teams and will debate a provided topic later in the term.

### **Athletics Carnival**

Our 2016 Athletics Carnival will be held over two days on Thursday 23 June and Friday 24 June. This event is for all year levels and forms our selection process for district representation for our upper school. On each day, all students will be involved in several events. On Thursday 23 June will be our Field Event Day, with heats of our longer track events. Friday is our Track, Novelty and Ball Games day. Parents are welcome to join us for one or both days. We are seeking the support of parents on each day to assist with the tuckshop and events. We would also like any donations of baked goods to sell over the two days.

### **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**

Our Disco on Friday 3 June was a huge success and a perfect way for students to burn off some energy after a very wet day. It was excellent to see the turnout on the evening and the number of parents who offered their assistance. Thank you to our P&C Association for organising this event.

## HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

### Sharing Best Practice

Each week teachers have been working together implementing our whole school writing program, Seven Steps to Writing Success. Current research outlines that teachers who work together are far more effective in achieving student improvements than those who work in isolation. "Collegial interchange, not isolation, must become the norm for teachers" (DuFour, Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap). This makes sense – we assess student work together and make sure that our judgements align. When we make a decision about a piece of student work we are able to use the Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum to make sure your children are demonstrating what they should know and understand in their year level. So many professional conversations stem from this and it is truly energising to work in a school that values this style of collaboration. Just this week the students in Mrs Morton's 2/3 class and Mrs Hancock's Prep class shared rich learning experiences using the same book, Noises in the Night by Mem Fox.



Both classes used this text for a writing lesson – one on sounds like crash, crunch, clatter and the other on building tension. The true collaboration came when the teachers decided to share the learning with the other students – they visited each other's rooms and

shared their writing. So much can be gained from this style of operating, and the benefits are many for both students and teachers.

A whole school approach where all teachers use the same programs such as Seven Steps to Success for Writing and Sheena Cameron for reading comprehension, means a strong, consistent delivery of education programs. This leads to greatest student success. This is what we are proudly working towards.



### **SPECTRA Science Extension Program**

We are excited to invite all parents to our Science Fair on Friday 17th June in our school hall from 9am to 10:45. I would like to congratulate all of our participant's and their parents for their dedication to fostering this love of learning. I have learnt so many new things and what is exciting about that is that everyone will be able to celebrate this next week.

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

This week I am celebrating the efforts of our lovely year one teacher Mrs Nyree Buchanan. Mrs Buchanan brings a wealth of knowledge to our school from her ICT expertise to her enthusiasm for all things learning. She has a special knack of making all her students feel valued and important, and is a valuable member of our team. Thanks Mrs Buchanan!

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