Dear Parents/Carers,

This is my last newsletter for Agnes Water State School and I want to pass on my thanks to all that have supported the school during my time here. It has been a challenging time but very rewarding with the growth and improvement of all our students evident.

I have the pleasure to announce that Ms Neroli O’Neill is my replacement for Term 4. Ms O’Neill comes to Agnes Water State School with a wealth of experience and will certainly add to the already great work that the staff are doing to improve student achievement.

Year 1 W
Under doctors’ advice Mrs Window needs to take term 4 off to fully recover from her recent operation. We have been able to secure Miss Pretty for term 4 working 4 days per week and we have Mrs Crowther for the other day. Mrs Crowther is a senior experienced teacher and will be an asset to the class.

Prep/1
With Mrs Heenan leaving to take on the Principals position at Lowmead SS, we had a replacement teacher in place to finish the year but unfortunately Mrs Hartung has been taken ill and will not be finishing the year. We now have secured the services of Mrs Ladlow to finish the school year. Mrs Ladlow will be supported by John Hancock throughout term 4 to help with the transition. I am sure that you will make everyone feel welcome here at this great school.

Watch over our school during the holidays
With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community!

If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland’s School Security Section on 07 3237 0874.

Safe school holidays
As students around the state head home for holidays, it is an important time of year to be mindful of your children’s safety.
Some simple precautions can help to make sure that your children have a fun and safe holiday.

- Beware of driveway dangers. Don’t let young children play on driveways.
- Things to keep in mind to ensure your child returns safely to school in term 4 include:
  - Is the pool properly fenced with a self-closing, self-latching gate?
  - Have they “slip, slop, slapped” against the strong summer sun, by donning a shirt and hat and plenty of sunscreen?
  - If travelling, are your children belted properly in the car? Or if on a bicycle are they wearing a crash helmet and are they aware of the road rules?

**Regards**

David Routh  
Principal

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**HOC News**

Hello Parents and Carers,

We finally get to the last newsletter of Term 3 with a big change in school personnel in the coming Term 4. We look forward to welcoming in our new Principal, Mrs O’Neill and wish Mr Routh good health and success in his new posting close to his family. We welcome Ms Pretty back in the Year 1 class, along with her teaching partner for one day per week, Mrs Crowther, an experienced senior teacher who has been working in Prep/1 and other classes and Mrs Ladlow who will be taking the Prep/1 class for the final term of the year. We wish Mrs Window the best as she needs extra time to recover and has been unable to return to Year 1 as expected. It has certainly provided a challenge to obtain experienced teachers and we now have an excellent result.

Term 3 is always an interesting one as the years and months of previous school work flourishes and class teachers usually begin to see the fruits of their efforts so far, as they know the children very well and they are trained in the class procedures. Teachers report wonderful rises in reading levels which has been a major focus. It is the improvement that we look for, as we want everyone to achieve to the best of their ability and like running, we are not all the same speed. The students get that feeling of excitement as they tell parents and others ‘I’ve gone up one, two, three levels’ as the case may be. Tomorrow we will have the first of the Captain Starfish term awards so there is excitement in the air as the students look at their class tallies.

On that score, if anyone has ideas for weekly rewards please let me know. A short explanation is:- Each week we draw a name from the Captain Starfish tickets for showing Safe, Responsible, Respectful behaviour from each class. We need 12 small awards each week. As you can see, if we use costly awards it would soon eat heavily into funds. We need items that students from ages 5 to 12 years would like to choose from the prize box. If you are aware of items that may be used please inform me. I seem able to get plenty of items suitable for the younger ages but find it difficult with older years. I have used items from the “cheap” shops and items we have around school but I am looking for ideas and I am hoping you might help stretch our limited funds yet have a real “prize”. We had several responses to the request for extra help in the classrooms and it was great to see quite a few Dads and Grandads working with the kids. Please help out when you can as it is much more rewarding than complaining, for everyone concerned.

I have had a couple of kids recently tell me they have Aboriginal heritage. I was surprised as I had checked to see that all our students identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander had received a share of the extra Teacher Aide time that had been allocated to our school. These students were not listed by parents at enrolment time. If this is the case with you, please let the office know as this cultural heritage and knowledge is very important.

I do hope that the holidays clear the air of some of the horrible illnesses that have gone,( and still are going,) through the school recently. Keep an eye on the head lice as they never seem to go away unfortunately.

Remember that the first Monday back, the 6th is Labour Day public holiday and the third Monday is a Pupil Free Day when staff are completing Professional Development.

Wishing all a safe and happy holiday and see you back hale and hearty in term 4.

Yours

John Hancock  
STLaN:HOC
Student of the Month
Assembly Awards Recipients

Term 3 - Week 8

Name
Caitlyn Mattner
Cheyanne Morris
Connor Healy
Jacob Howard
Belle Impy
Hannah Lawrence
Phoenix Arpas
Annabelle Wheeler
Haiden Campbell
Amber Liekmeier
Charli Dare
Alki Kallas
Kye Burns
Thomas Rolph
Lilly-Belle Robinson
Jesse Growcott
Amy Gordon
Ruby Dito
Piper Seaman

Reason
Fantastic spelling results
A mature attitude
Being helpful and good mannered
Being responsible and respectful
For amazing handwriting
For kindness towards others
For his persistence during writing
For excellent counting
For fantastic math work with money
Respectful and responsible
For her honesty. Well done
Fantastic spelling results
Fantastic spelling results
Taking responsibility to catch up on missed work
Being polite and helpful
Improved handwriting
Being responsible
Being responsible
Responsible and respectful

Week 9

Name
Charli Dare
Kye Quartermain-Smithies
Edwin Chang
Lucy Rolph
Adam Jones
Grace Wakefield
Erin Hazell
Eve Wakefield
Reece Melouny
Rosie Moody
Angus Burton
Lizzy Gordon
Tayla French
Skye Long
Halle Horwell
Jackson Suthers
Jack Jenkins
Cohdyn Stockwell

Reason
Excellence in Music Theory Grade 1
Being responsible
Great work ethic
Attentive listening
Attentive listening
Being responsible
Great work ethic
Excellent effort on writing task
Fantastic maths work
Fantastic manners
Magic effort
Great work ethic
Attentive listening
Always trying her best
Her contributions to class discussions
For improvement effort listening to others
Working hard in maths
A super effort in writing

STopping Bullying Starts With You

If someone tries to bully you
- Ignore them, turn and leave
- If you can, look them in the eye, tell them to ‘stop’ and then walk away
- Pretend you don’t care
- Go to places where you feel safe.

If you have been bullied
- Talk to an adult (parent, teacher) you trust who can help stop the bullying
- Seek support from your friends
- Keep on asking for support until the bullying stops.

If you see someone being bullied
- If safe, do something to stop it
- Report it to a teacher
- Support the person being bullied

For more information or support
Kids Help Line
www.kidshelp.com.au
1800 55 1800

Cyber bulling
www.cybersmart.gov.au
1800 880 176
Student of the Month
Spring into Avoca State School P & C Cent Sale on Saturday 25 October 2014 at the CQ Leagues Club (Western Suburbs) at 1.00pm. Entry will be $5.00 and includes afternoon tea. There will be plenty of prizes, jackpots, whip arounds and raffles. For more information and bookings please phone Naomi on 0401 947 757 or email: pandc@avocass.eq.edu.au

PRE PREP

Pre Prep program for 2014 will run two days a week on Monday and Tuesday from 9:00am to 2:30pm beginning Tuesday 7 October and finishing Tuesday 2 December.

HUGE JOINT GARAGE SALE

8.00am to 4.00pm
20 – 21st September
27 – 28 September
4 – 5 October – Holiday weekend
Many items continually added to sale during this school holidays

‘CLEARING OUT’ SALE

Wide Selection including:
Children’s books, Toys, Games; Educational books & items; camping gear; Men’s “Stuff”; floor coverings & furniture; crockery & home décor items.

Follow ‘G. SALE’ signs to Allingham Way