**BUDDY PROGRAM**

Several of our Year 5 students joined the Agnes Water Kindy for our first buddy session. Students read stories and assisted with craft based activities while getting to know our future Preps.

**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4 Sep</td>
<td>Teacher Aide Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Sep – Fri 11 Sep</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Sep</td>
<td>Interschool Soccer Year 4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 10 Sep</td>
<td>Prep Transition Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Sep</td>
<td>Inter-school debating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Sep</td>
<td>Celebration Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring Vacation: 19 September to 4 October
Mon 6 October | Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues 7 October | School Resumes
Mon 12 Oct – Fri 16 Oct | Year 6 Camp
Mon 19 Oct | Student Free Day
Fri 11 Dec | Final Day for 2015

Federal Member, Mr Ken O’Dowd and State Member Stephen Bennet joined our Year 6 class for a short afternoon of questions about a day in the life of a politician.
From the Principal

Our school has been a very busy place over the last two weeks with so many different events happening. We normally like to spread events out over the course of the term, but for some reason the previous two weeks have been very popular. Last Thursday I had the opportunity to take some of our Year 5 students across to the Kindy, kicking off our Buddy Program. This program forms an important part of our transition and provides familiar faces to our Preps when they begin in 2016. I was very impressed with the Year 5 students that joined me at the Kindy. Their compassion and support to their buddies was impressive. Our Buddies will meet up again at our Transition day at Agnes Water State School next Thursday, 10 September. Any non-Kindy children will also get the opportunity to build a relationship with a buddy during our transition days.

This week, there were two after school sessions that were also held. Monday night we had our first parent information session regarding Prep in 2016. We will hold three additional sessions on the transition days in Term Four. These sessions will be a repeat of Monday night as well as additional information. The second session was one for our teachers. We spent the afternoon with our Regional Behaviour Management Coach looking at the function behind student behaviour and we further unified our assessment practices.

Over the last two weeks I have had the opportunity to work with some of the top Principals and system leaders in Queensland. This opportunity has reinforced the direction our leadership team is taking this school and provided a great opportunity for me to look at other highly successful strategies that will contribute further to our fantastic school.

The last two weeks of term are looking like they will be just as busy as the previous two and the end of the term will be upon us before we know it. Apart from our transition day next week, some of our Year 4-6 students will be participating in an inter-school soccer carnival at Discovery Christian College on Friday and we also have our parent-teacher meetings during the week. During the last week of term, some of our Year 5 & 6 students will be participating in a debating activity as a part of the Academic Triathlon we instigated this year and our term will finalise with our Celebration Day activities acknowledging our positive behaviours across the school.

In the last two weeks of term, we have several staff away on Long Service Leave and at Professional Development. Mr and Mrs Hancock will be away for the last two weeks. Mrs Margaret Crowther will replace Mrs Hancock in the 1H classroom. Mr Gourlay will also be away for the last two weeks and will be replaced by Mrs Kylie Rupp. Mrs Heenan will be away during the last week of term, enhancing her mentoring skills. Mrs Heenan will be replaced by Mrs Nyree Buchanan for the week.

Teachers are the greatest impact to our student’s educational outcomes outside of the home. It is therefore important that our staff sustain their currency of practice, continually update skills and look at best practice in instruction. To support this, all State Schools in Queensland will be holding a Student Free Day on Monday 19 October (Monday of week three). This is the only Student Free Day each year that is held during school term. Most other professional development takes place in our teacher’s own time. On Monday 19 October, our school staff will be looking at our whole of school culture as well as our practices in writing and numeracy. School culture is just as important for our school to develop as the curriculum and pedagogy knowledge of our teachers.

I look forward to a great end to our school term.

Celebrating our Awesome Teacher Aides

Our school is blessed with 11 fantastic Teacher Aides that are continually going above and beyond their roles to support the learning of children in our school. Without our Aides, many of our programs across the school would not exist. Thank you to all of our Teacher Aides on behalf of our school community for the difference you make to our school. Happy World Teacher Aides Day.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our parent-teacher meetings are an important opportunity for parents to check-in on their child’s progress in the current semester’s curriculum before formal reporting in Term Four. 1H and 6G held their meetings this week, with large levels of responses from parents. All other classes will hold their
meetings next week. Appointment bookings will close as of Monday morning, so please ensure if you would like an appointment with your child’s teacher that you complete your booking prior to Monday.

Staffing Changes

During Term Four, we have a couple of changes occurring across our school. Mrs Nyree Buchanan will be moving across from SWD into the Prep T classroom replacing Miss Tooker who will be away on Maternity Leave. Miss Hartley will remain in the 2/3 class until the end of the school year providing consistency to this class. During Term Four Mrs Stephanie Smith will transition back into the school supporting our SWD role, before returning to a class teacher role in 2016. During Term Four we have also been provided an additional support allocation from our Region. This will support our SWD program in our school ensuring that we provide the greatest service provision for these students and assisting our Year 6’s in transitioning into High School. Mrs Kylie Rupp who has already been working with many of these students this year will fill this additional allocation.

Next term we will also be looking at furthering our support models in the school through our teacher aides, including additional speech and occupational therapy support in our early years, working memory programs and general classroom support. This will further our already existing programs that are running in the school and are providing great results for our students.

Congratulations Peta Swan

Well done to Peta Swan for her recent grant application to support Global links in teaching Languages. Peta was successful in her application for $20 000 to further our programs and connectivity with our sister school in Indonesia, Sekolah ABC.

UNSW

We received our UNSW competition results for spelling this week with 1 Distinction, 4 Credits, 2 Merits and 10 Participation awards. Congratulations to Saffron Wynne who placed within the top 10% of students nationally. Aiden Eising, Mason Munro, Micaela Savage and Jakob Wardlaw all received a Credit award and performed in the top 20% of students nationally, while Selkie Smith, and Luca Bowe received a Merit award. I am very proud of the achievements of all of our students in this competition.

Soccer

Good luck to our Year 4, 5 and 6 students who will representing our school at our first inter-school soccer carnival with Discovery Christian College. Students will be competing in 14 minute, 5 a-side games on Friday 11 September. Students who have nominated for this competition have been provided permission forms. These must be returned by no later than Wednesday 9 September.

BUSHkids

During Term 4, we will see the implementation of a new community service for Agnes Water and Miriam Vale through the support of BUSHkids. Currently this service is planned to be based from our school and will support families with pre-schooling age children and will support school based programs for the early years. This is a fantastic opportunity and resource to be based at our school. Appointments to this role are currently being finalised and once the successful applicant has been notified I will inform our schooling community.

BUSHkids will begin supporting our school with the delivery of a parent information session during our transition morning on Thursday 10 September from 9:00am in our school hall. This presentation is designed for parents with children between 3 and 8 years of age. Any parents from our school or wider community are welcome to attend.

Before School Procedures

A reminder of school expectations prior to 8:30am. Students arriving at school prior to this time must be in the lower eating area or seated with their parents if waiting for a class teacher. Before 8:30am, our playgrounds (including Prep playgrounds), ovals are out of bounds. If a student arrives before 8:30am, handball and quiet games are permissible in the undercover area. From 8:30am to 8:40am students need to move to their classrooms and prepare themselves for the day. We have been fairly flexible around this during the year, however due to a couple of recent events, it is important that this is again reinforced. This was revisited with our students on this morning’s parade.
Celebration Day

Our Celebration Day for student behaviour will again be held on the last day of this term. Over the year we have seen a significant improvement in physical and verbal behaviours from students towards others. This has enabled us to focus closer on behaviours that impact upon learning. I am a Learner is one of our most important expectations as this is our core purpose. Students selected to participate in our Celebration Day at the end of the term consistently respect other learners, take responsibility for their own learning, work hard in the classroom and meet the expectations of our classroom teachers. At the end of last term and beginning of this term, we clarified our expectations for participation in celebration days. Students who are continually demonstrating behaviours that impact upon the teaching in the classroom and learning for themselves or others will be provided a work program during the behaviour celebration activities. As per our responsible behaviour plan, minor behaviours that are continually displayed are recognised as a major behaviour.

This term, we will be having a water based celebration at school where invited students will be guaranteed to become absolutely drenched. Further details will be included in the invitation letters that will be provided to students at the beginning of week 10.

HOC News

Australian Curriculum Update.

At Agnes Water State School we are proud of the whole school approaches that we are building. Last week staff were released in teams to work on creating a whole school task sheet. For every piece of major assessment, teachers are required to use this task sheet template and parents will receive this information prior to the task being completed by your child. All task sheets will contain a context for the learning...giving the reason why this particular task is relevant to our students and community. They will clearly outline what the child is to do, and they will also give the guidelines of where and how the task is to be completed. The task sheets will also, very importantly, contain the applicable CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS and ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS. This is our direct link to the Australian Curriculum. The format of the task sheets will be consistent across all year levels, although there may be some minor differences between lower and upper primary. The work your child produces in the task will be marked using our Guide to Making Judgements. The standard of work will be reported on in your child’s next report card.

Using whole school approaches ensures we use common, research based language and strategies. We have had positive feedback from our whole school approach to the homework matrix and teachers have noticed that the quality of the homework produced by the students is also of a higher standard.

Thankyou for your feedback about recent communication about how the Australian Curriculum is being taught in our school. It’s great to know what parents appreciate, as this ensures we can continue providing this service to you. A really lovely example of the way the Australian Curriculum can be taught within our school context is the Tasmanian Pen Pals our Year Ones in Mrs Hancock’s class have been writing to. While immersing the children in real-life learning through letter writing, Mrs Hancock has also woven in elements of Geography and Science to make the letters even more meaningful and rich. They make comment about our landscape here in Agnes Water and ask questions about life in Tasmania. (The direct links to the Australian Curriculum: The natural, managed and constructed features of places, their location, how they change and how they can be cared for [ACHGK005] Pose questions about familiar and unfamiliar places [ACHG007] Create short imaginative and informative texts that show emerging use of appropriate text structure, sentence-level grammar, word choice, spelling, punctuation and appropriate multimodal elements, for example illustrations and diagrams [ACELY1661])

Celebrate What You Want to See More Of…..

This week I am celebrating the work of a group of educators in our school who work tirelessly and cheerfully with our children. Our group of dedicated teacher aides play an integral role in our school. They teach everything from reading to tying up shoe-laces....always with a smile and a kind word. If you get the opportunity, a lovely way to thank them is with a nice note from your child – let them know how special and important they are. Happy Teacher Aide’s Day!
General News

Modernising Payments, invoicing and activity permissions

By the end of this school year, we will be trying to move to a cashless school environment, where parents will receive invoices electronically (via registered email), will be able to respond to student permissions electronically and will also be able to pay for all activities through BPay and Direct Debit. We will trial this process with several small activities in Term 4 ensuring successful roll out for all activities in 2016. Parents who do not have a registered email with the school or internet access will still receive a hard copy of invoices and permission forms.

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.

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.

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

Dollarmites
Cartoon Drawing during the School holidays

Back by popular demand cartoon drawing for kids in Agnes Water. Kids will learn how to draw their favourite cartoons through step by step instruction of cartoon design. They will be taught various drawing techniques and different cartoon character styles. The children will also be encouraged to create their own cartoon characters. Each lesson will cover different aspects of cartooning and will end with a small craft project related to the lesson.

Limited spots available...Please book now to secure a spot.

LOCATION: "Old" community centre (above childcare centre)

TIME: 10:30am to 11:30am

DATE: 22nd Sep and 29th Sep

AGE: 5 to 16 yrs

COST: $15 per child including material

Ilona Peel
You are cordially invited to attend

**The Power of Positive Parenting**

*Presented by*

*BUSHkids Psychologist, Dr Samantha Brown*

*9am, Thursday 10th of September*
*Agnes Waters State School*

**Want to have a better relationship with your children? Keen to understand why children behave the way they do?**

*The Power of Positive Parenting* Seminar takes the guesswork out of parenting and introduces parents to the core principles of the world famous Positive Parenting Program – Triple P:

- ensuring a safe, engaging environment for children,
- creating a positive learning environment,
- using assertive discipline,
- having realistic expectations, and
- taking care of yourself as a parent.

This life-changing 90-minute seminar is **free of charge** and is suitable for parents of children aged 3 to 8 years.

For further information please contact [info@bushkids.org.au](mailto:info@bushkids.org.au)

BUSHkids is able to offer this workshop thanks to funding received from the Department of Social Services under the Families and Children Program and the Queensland Government.