Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I want to explain the issues with the school sign. Unfortunately the sign is out of commission at the moment and we are waiting on electricians to come out to repair the system. A new power unit was installed but this has not fixed the problem, we expect the problem to be rectified soon.

Last week we launched a competition to name the school Starfish with the lucky winner receiving a $20.00 Tuckshop voucher. I encourage every student to be involved to take ownership of this as it will be the basis of the School Wide Positive Behaviour System.

This week is the NAPLAN assessment of our years 3, 5 & 7 students. Over the last 5 years Agnes Water State School has performed very well and in improving in many areas at a rate greater than the National average. I want to comment on the work that our great teachers have done and continue to do at this school. Their commitment and drive to get the best out of every student is unquestionable.

Last week our year 6 & 7 girls participated in the Bundaberg District AFL Gala day and from all reports acquitted themselves very well indeed. I was very pleased to hear the sportsmanship was of the highest level and there was no lack of commitment or effort. The girls had a very good win over Branyan Road SS and went down to St Lukes. Well Done Girls. Look out for a detailed news report from Mr Gourlay.

Also last week was the district Cross Country and we had 9 competitors representing Agnes Water State School and they all ran to the best of their abilities on the day. Jack W 1st, Ebony W 4th, Anisha M 6th, Alki K 2nd, Luca B 14th, Letitia S 14th Tynan C 11th, Rosie M 6th and Ella R dnf. Unfortunately Ella injured her knee and was not able to complete the course. Jack, Ebony and Alki are now eligible to go to the next level, Wide Bay Trials, at the end of this month. Mr Lane will have the date and location available as soon as he receives them.

Great Results Guarantee
Mrs Leigh Tankey is working in the school to assist us in the development of a plan to get the best out of all our students. The first step in this process is around the identification of specific learning goals for students. These learning goals are going to be identified by your child’s teacher through the analysis of their results. The first area of learning that the teachers are looking at is reading. So if your children come home and start to talk to you about their learning goals, this is why.
**Attendance and Absenteeism**

I would like to bring to everyone’s attention the impact of missing school. I am very aware and completely understand that children catch colds and flu and there are times that missing school is unavoidable. But attendance is vital.

**Does Attendance Really Matter?**

1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but …….

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses...</th>
<th>That equals</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling is...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing year 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>130 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing year 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you want your child to be successful at school the YES, Attendance does matter!
EVERY DAY COUNTS!

**Reading**

**Early reading stages**

Children usually go through several stages as they learn to read: the role play reader, the experimental reader and the early reader. These pages can help you recognise these stages and support your child as they learn to read. Age ranges are included here to help you recognise the reading stages but are only a guide.
Role play readers (2–5 years old)
During the role play stage children take an interest in books and the writing they see in the world around them. They imitate things they see adult readers do, such as holding the book the right way up and turning the pages carefully. They often pretend to read by using the pictures and their memory to retell stories.

Support your child by:
- reading aloud to them as often as possible – this helps them learn about the value of books and expand their vocabulary
- encouraging and praising their attempts when they pretend to read
- looking at the illustrations and seeing how they help the story
- reading favourite stories again and again – familiarity builds confidence.

Experimental readers (3–5 years old)
Experimental readers often read by using pictures or their memory of the story. They may identify some words but are more focused on the meaning rather than reading every word in the right way.

Support your child by:
- encouraging them to ‘have a go’ at reading and praising them
- talking about who the people are and
- what happens in the books you read together
- encouraging them to express opinions about what happens in the story
- talking about the letters, sounds, words and interesting features in the things you read.

Regards
David Routh
Principal

Year 6
As it is our final year at Primary School Year 6 has been asked, as a class, to paint a 3m x 1m canvas for the Captain Cook 1770 Art Exhibition. A massive ‘THANK YOU’ goes to Bendigo Community Bank for sponsoring our painting by way of Art materials. We have been having fun brainstorming the ‘nautical’ theme, using our skills to create our piece and putting our ideas onto the canvas. As students we appreciate this opportunity to learn about our history and work as a team. Hopefully we will make Bendigo Community Bank proud. Look out for the Agnes Water Year 6 painting at the Festival Art Exhibition.
Hello Parents and Carers,

This week our years 3, 5 and 7 are doing the NAPLAN testing which is used to gauge the effectiveness of the school’s teaching and learning programme. It has far more effect on the school and teaching staff than it does on the students and is just one more piece of information we use to determine what needs to be taught next and where our focus needs to be in time to come.

More importantly for your child is the connection between you, your children and the school, usually through the class teacher and the importance you place on their ongoing education. As teachers, we want to see the maximum progress every child is capable of achieving.

Your input with home reading is arguably the most important contribution you can have. Reading, as I pointed out in the last newsletter is not just reading the words. It is the connections with all other aspects of life that make the reading mean something.

Please use the ideas from the little bookmark you may have, that I share here, to help you talk to your children before, during and after reading. These are the types of questions that help develop sound reading skills. They can be adapted to all levels of reading ability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right There</td>
<td>Think and Search</td>
<td>The Author and You</td>
<td>In Your Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find one like this...</td>
<td>Find one that is... can...</td>
<td>What will happen next?</td>
<td>What will happen if he...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's this?</td>
<td>What's happening?</td>
<td>What is ... going to say?</td>
<td>Why did you pick that one?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What colour is this?</td>
<td>Who is...? When did...?</td>
<td>How did he...?</td>
<td>How could he do it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did the ... say?</td>
<td>Where's the...?</td>
<td>How else could he do it?</td>
<td>What would you do if...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you see?</td>
<td>Finish this sentence...</td>
<td>How are these the same?</td>
<td>Why is it made of that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show me the...</td>
<td>What is this for?</td>
<td>What's your favourite...?</td>
<td>How can we tell?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it X or Y?</td>
<td>Tell me about this thing?</td>
<td>Tell me one that's not.....</td>
<td>Why can't he...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is this?</td>
<td>What does it do?</td>
<td>What is a....?</td>
<td>Why do you like that one?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Find one that is X and Y.</td>
<td>Which one is.....?</td>
<td>If you were X, what would you say/do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How are these different?</td>
<td>How did he feel?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What else is a X? (category)</td>
<td>What have they done so far?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What else could they....?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please try to make the time to read. Enjoy the experience by respecting where your child is now and helping them grow as readers.

Can you manage to spend any time at school? Check with your child’s class teacher to see how you can help! Prefer to work with other children instead? See who would like a hand, just ask!

Hoping to hear from you,
Yours in education,

John Hancock
HOC /STLaN
Student of the Month

Above – June, Melina and River

Above – Jada, Selkie and Holly
Assembly Awards

Week 3

Armani Fraser  Being helpful to the teacher
Cody Turnbull  Super spelling practise
Ethan Genat  Completing all class tasks
Holly Rankin  Being a responsible learner
Darby de Haan Skitt  A great start at a new school
Alexander McLaren  Being a super worker
Kayne Charles  Working hard
Jaime Reti-Derwin  Working hard
Halle Horwell  Her consistent contribution to the class
Mathew Ray  For 100% effort in all areas
Chelsea Wardlaw  Student of the week
Isabella Robinson  Being a responsible learner
Hayden Grave  100% effort in all areas
Millie Wright  Great reading
Serenity Charles  Good work in all areas
Brittany Sanders  Working well in class
Shayla Walker  Being a great class mate, we will miss you!
Edison Rodgers  Using wonderful manners
Angela Horwell  For being a helpful student
Logan Ward  Thank you for helping
Jesse Growcott  Helpful and polite – thank you
Darcy McRitchie  Very neat writing
Eden Mitchell  Good work in all class tasks!

Tuckshop News

Healthy Menu Choices for the cooler weather

- Burritos
- Toasties
- Chicken Chilli Wraps (for those with bigger appetites just add full salad for 50c extra)

2014 Menus are available at Tuckshop if you need one.

Any queries regarding Tuckshop please phone Deb on 49749527 (Wednesday – Friday)
P&C News

P & C are underway hosting a fete again and we need a committee to help with ideas, organising and running events for the day.

Please put your name below if you can help out.
   1. I can be part of the fete committee
   2. I can run a stall
   3. I can contribute with donations
   4. Share your ideas

Family Name...................................................................... Phone No. ..............................................

Can you help out with our 1770 Festival?

Saturday from 9.00am – 6.00pm

Yes/ No

PLEASE TICK TIME SUITABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9.00</th>
<th>10.00</th>
<th>11.00</th>
<th>12.00</th>
<th>1.00</th>
<th>2.00</th>
<th>3.00</th>
<th>4.00</th>
<th>5.00</th>
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Next P & C meeting is on 14th May, still at 3.00 pm due to executive committee members being parents with young children.
Do you have a passion for helping others?
Become a TAFE Queensland Volunteer Tutor

Volunteer tutors make a valuable contribution to English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. Your support can help a student settle into life in Australia.

TAFE Queensland is offering positions for volunteer tutors to work with migrants and refugees in the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

Why become a volunteer tutor?
Providing one-on-one support to an English language learner is a rewarding experience that lets you:
- share your knowledge and experience with someone new to Australia
- meet new friends
- learn new skills
- share a cultural exchange
- give back to your community.

What do volunteer tutors do?
Tutors meet with their students once a week at the student’s home or another convenient location to deliver a lesson tailored to that student’s learning needs. Students are matched to tutors based on location and gender.

Who can become a volunteer tutor?
You can apply to be a volunteer tutor if you:
- have permanent Australian residency
- have a good level of written and spoken English
- are able to commit to the program for 12 months
- consent to a Criminal History check.

Is training and support available?
All volunteer tutors undertake the TAFE Queensland Volunteer Tutor Training course. This is a free, 20 hour, online program which runs for 5 weeks. The course provides foundation knowledge and skills in:
- cultural awareness
- the special nature of ESL tutoring to adults
- the basic principles of communicative language teaching.

You will be guided through the course by an online facilitator. You may also be offered additional face to face workshops and the opportunity to visit classes on campus to observe experienced teachers and tutors.

TAFE Queensland provides ongoing support, development and networking activities for all volunteer tutors.

For more information:
For information about tutoring opportunities and training in your area please contact:

Melissa Drake
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE
Email: melissa.drake@tafe.qld.edu.au
Phone: 07 4150 5859

*The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry. In Queensland, the AMEP is delivered through TAFE Queensland.*
2014 Schools Writing Competition

Write4Fun is proud to announce that Agnes Water State School had over 10 students successfully progress past the initial judging in to 2014 Schools Writing Competition.

This year, the competition was held throughout primary and secondary schools within Australia and we received over 11,500 entries! Your school has been recognised for outstanding writing as less than 2% percent of schools showed this level of achievement.

Winners of the competition will be announced on Wednesday 14 May and can be viewed on the website at www.write4fun.net

Thank you to Darren Brennan and Neville Hughes for supplying paint to help mark the oval for our sports day.

Soccer

Come and have fun  Learn how to play soccer

WHEN: Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5.00pm
WHERE: Captain Creek Sport and Rec
         Murphy Road
         Captain Creek
AGE: 6 – 12 years
Enquiries: Mandy Bassard 49 747186

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

Each year Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is held in the month of May. The aim of the month is to:

• Raise community awareness on the effects of domestic and family violence;
• Promote a clear message of NO tolerance to domestic and family violence in our community;
• Promote what support is available in our community for those affected by domestic and family violence; and
• Encourage those who used abuse or violence to take responsibility and seek support to change.

Do you know someone affected by domestic and family violence?
This year’s campaign is MAKE THE CALL (Queensland Government – Department of Communities). The campaign encourages the friends, family, colleagues and neighbours of people experiencing abuse in a domestic or family relationship to call the statewide DVConnect Womensline or Mensline to seek confidential advice about safety strategies and available support.

The aim of the campaign is to enable people in the community to recognise signs of domestic and family violence and especially non-physical form of violence – such as stalking, threats, verbal abuse or controlling behaviour.