



Weetangera Primary School

Successful Learning Through Caring and Sharing



Weetangera Primary is an ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL
Avoiding eggs and all nuts

Please be advised that due to ANZAC Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday, Term 2 2015 will commence for all ACT Public Schools on Tuesday 28 April.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Doing Things Together Day

On Monday 30 March Weetangera School coordinated our *Doing Things Together Day* for all students across the school in Years K-6. Students across the school were organised into multi-age groups and set tasks throughout the day. The emphasis for the day was on peer support and teamwork through cooperation, consideration and courtesy.

The students were involved in a process involving decision making, problem solving and leadership. Each of the activities presented to our children were designed to allow everyone as a group to work together. At the conclusion of each activity the students were led through a feedback process with their team leaders. As I walked around the school during the course of the day I was privileged to witness countless acts of creativity, problem solving and imaginative ways to overcome particular hurdles that may have prevented teams from achieving their goals and targets for the day. The feedback received from our Year 6 students reported back to the school stated the activities supported and developed our school values of respect, responsibility, resilience, honesty and inclusion. Educational literature on 21st century thinkers emphasise a range of qualities that our future will need. *Doing Things Together Day* highlighted those qualities of open mindedness; the ability to work collaboratively with others; to engage in problem solving; to analyse and integrate knowledge; to think creatively and imaginatively; and to communicate accurately, clearly and effectively. We extend our thanks to Janinne Nascimento and the committee for organising and coordinating such a productive day.

One of my personal favourites for the day was an activity that took place outside, *Ships Ahoy*. Each team was given 3 squares of newspaper. Using only the paper the whole team had to travel from one end of the field to the other end without stepping on the ground into shark infested waters! Why I particularly enjoyed this one was because everyone had to work together to succeed and it also really challenged all team members to become a 21st century thinker.

School Leaders present student cyber safety forum

Weetangera School Leaders Will S, Sami M, Ashleigh B and Jack E led a student forum on cyber safety to students in years 5 and 6 in the old hall on Tuesday morning this week, following their attendance at the ETD ACT Cyber Safety session at Campbell HS earlier this term. The school leaders used drama skits to display to their peers how easily a story can be changed when you do not hear it from the original source. They also shared how easily messages can be passed on the internet and how important it is to be careful when using the internet and social media. The forum also discussed rules and laws regarding bullying and how we as a school have a hand in saying no to bullying. This led to the students creating a mural for having a 'hand' in saying no to bullying and further consolidating a culture of celebrating diversity in our school. We thank Ian Lanham for this initiative.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Parent Reps. Rachel Campbell 0402208150; James Badgery 0412552634; Monique Allen 0407595572; **Community Rep. Principal** - James Barnett 62057488; **Teacher Reps.** - Lisa Kingham; Isabel Dunn.

Newsletter No. 9

2 April 2015

Term 1 Week 9

COMMUNITY DIARY

Inclusions may be added in the diary at the front office.

April

- 3-6 Easter Long Weekend
- 28 Tuesday - Start Term 2



ASSEMBLIES - 9:15am

Friday 3 April

Good Friday

No Assembly

Friday 10 April

Whole School Assembly

ANZAC Hosted by Unit 2

Reminder

NO RUNNING CLUB IN WEEK 10.....

Attachment

YMCA ANZAC Day holiday care

Weetangera Primary School
Southwell Street
Weetangera ACT 2614

Telephone: 6205 7488
Fax: 6205 7487
Canteen: 6255 2634

Please read our web site:
weetangeraps.act.edu.au



During the term break there will be work on the school front entrance. The school will be upgraded with sliding doors. There will also be paths and steps being established alongside Unit 7 and the Preschool, and a resurface of the ground level between Unit 7 and the junior playground. The school has also placed requests for infrastructure funding for 2015-16 through the Directorate Central Office, including repairs and maintenance.

On behalf of the Weetangera staff, we wish everyone a safe and relaxing long weekend.

James M. Barnett

Principal

AWARDS CERTIFICATES

At last week's Senior School Assembly, certificates were awarded for:

Getting Along: Hayley-Maree T, Jamieson N, Josh C, Erin McG, Ryan J, Nathan W, Luke M, Lawson V-S.

Persistence: Jasmine B, Max L, Keira E, Cassie D-J, Noah K, Hana A, Sienna T, Luke L.

Confidence: Archie S, Lucy M, Oliver S, Zoe L, Charlie S, Lilly G-M, Caleb H-C, Ally C, Alicia P, Jeremy H, Ellen V, Oliver E, Lene S, Sophie E, Brodie N.

Organization: Zain W, Jasmine R, Callan H, Jessica M, Esha T, Arawan C, Lara M.

P&C SUB-COMMITTEE - possible contribution to a disadvantaged school

The P&C is considering contributing some funds to a school which is disadvantaged in some way. There are many ways this could be done - a one off donation, an ongoing relationship, or a charity or program. We are calling for people who are interested to form a sub-committee. The sub-committee would investigate options and present them to the P&C to consider next term. If you would like to be involved in this way, please contact Virginia at virginia.lindenmayer@gmail.com.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates

Opening Date: Monday 23 March 2015. Closing Date Friday 15 May 2015.

The ACT Government is seeking public comment on the

draft Reporting Student Achievement (Preschool to Year 12) Policy and draft common report templates for ACT public primary and high schools. The draft policy and draft common templates are designed to ensure parents receive consistent information about their child's achievement regardless of which ACT public school their child attends.

Parents/carers can provide feedback through the ACT Education and Training Directorate website at www.det.act.gov.au and the ACT Government's Community Engagement 'Time to Talk' website at <http://timetotalk.act.gov.au/>.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost Property - there are currently plenty of misplaced jumpers/jackets with names, occupying space in lost property. Please come and take a look to see if any belong to you. There are also some camp items which have been left behind.

DSA: Dyslexia SPELD ACT - Free Q&A session
Dyslexia SPELD ACT (DSA) is a not-for-profit organisation providing information and support services in the ACT for children, young people and adults with specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia, their parents/carers, teachers and all those who work with them.

DSA are offering a drop-in afternoon for parents and professionals to find out more about who "Dyslexia SPELD ACT" are and what services are available.

Saturday 2 May 2015 2-4pm Gryphons Caffe Bar, 16 Barker St, Griffith Bookings: info@dyslexia.act-org.au or just pop in.

WESTS JUNIOR HOCKEY

Sunday Hook in 2 Hockey for Under 7's to Under 9's

Wests Junior Hockey are running a Hook in 2 Hockey program for U7's to U9's in Term 2.

The program caters for all standards of hockey players with a skills session followed by a mini game and lots of fun!

Where: Weetangera Primary School Oval

When: 9:30am – 10:30am on Sundays commencing 3 May 2015. Sessions will go for 8 weeks (excluding the June long weekend).

Cost: \$20 for the 8 sessions

Equipment: The players will need a mouthguard, shin-guards and a stick. Hook in 2 Hockey participant packs containing all those things (plus a ball, stick bag and other goodies) are available from the F-H-E Hockey Shop at the National Hockey Centre in Lyneham for \$40.

For further information and to register, please see our website at www.westshockeyact.com.au or contact us via email at westshockeyclub@gmail.com.

Come along and give hockey a go!



**Have a great
Easter Break**

PRESCHOOL NEWS

What a wonderful first term of preschool the Adventurers and Explorers have enjoyed. Throughout this term we have had a focus on getting to know each other, building friendships, learning preschool routines and most of all having FUN. The children continue to amaze us with their limitless imaginations and creativity. If you take peek inside the preschool yard you are likely to spy pirate ships and treasure hunts, cubby houses, construction sites, camp fires, fairies and maybe even someone cooking up wombat stew in the outdoor kitchen. If you listen carefully you will hear the voices of young children exploring, investigating and problem solving. We encourage all families to spend some time at preschool and share this amazing experience with their pre-schooler. We look forward to continued fun, exploration and adventure next term.

The Preschool Team

UNIT 1 NEWS

We can't believe we are almost at the end of Term 1! With Easter on the horizon and school holidays approaching fast we wanted to thank all parents and carers, and especially our wonderful students, for working together to support one another this term. The year 5/6 camp was a definite highlight for us all. Spending time together at Cooba gave us all the opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed environment. We learnt a lot from one another and what it means to step out of our comfort zone. The motto for our assembly, *No Risk, No Reward*, has been taken on board by many students in relation to stepping up and challenging themselves. Next term, we will continue to encourage students to develop within themselves *the love of learning and challenge*, and *the ability to thrive on obstacles*. As you are aware, the year 5 band have received their instruments and have begun to share their enthusiasm for what they are learning with the Unit. For example, "I was excited today to make a high note [on the trumpet]" - Lillyana. Those students who aren't attending band have started their Investigation Projects, which also align with the Australian Curriculum. Each project involves planning, designing, researching, appraising and presenting an end product. Finally, keep an eye out for information regarding topics for next term's rostrum competition. Wishing you all a safe, joyful and relaxing holiday together with your families.

Corinne, Vicky and Tarsh

UNIT 2 NEWS

We would like to congratulate the students that completed the first part of the homework project on the seven wonders of the world. The posters presented were informative and attractive and we were impressed with the depth of knowledge shown, a reminder that the second part of the homework is due on Wednesday April 8.

In literacy we have been writing information reports with a focus on using topic sentences, expanding ideas clearly in detailed paragraphs and using subject vocabulary that is understood by the writer. This has led into our integrated unit where the children have been researching and preparing an information report on volcanoes.

On Tuesday the school leaders Sami, Ashleigh, Jack and Will S along with Mr Lanham led a cyber-bullying workshop with the students in years 5 and 6. Each of the leaders conducted a lesson based on the safe use of the internet, they are to be congratulated on running an excellent program that facilitated many valuable ideas and discussions.

We are sending the order form in for the year six shirts next week, for any students still wishing to purchase a shirt we ask that you bring the order form in. We would love to have all the students in a year 6 shirt on graduation day.

Melani, Ian and Erwin

UNIT 3 NEWS

WOW it's nearly the end of term one, hasn't it gone by quickly? We had a great time hosting the assembly last week. We learnt a lot about writing scripts and producing a news show. Everyone is getting excited about the Cross Country on Thursday.

In maths we have been learning about 3D objects, the properties of prisms and looking at various strategies to help solve addition and subtraction problems. We've had some special visitors this term, like Dr Helen Cartledge, who talked to us about her life in Siberia and her research work. WO2 Elston who spoke with us about the UN and her experiences working with them and how they help other countries. The Red Cross also came in to talk to us about evacuation plans.

We hope everyone has a great Easter Break; we can finally catch up on the sleep we missed while on camp. Have a great Easter holiday

Students of year 4

UNIT 4 NEWS

Hi ho, hi ho it's off to camp we went..... flying across the air on the flying fox, balancing on low ropes, hitting the bullseye, speeding around the track in Green Machines, using logic to solve the initiative course, Indigenous games,

cooking lunch on a granite rock, sleeping in cabins and eating way too much at the Jindi Markets! Camp what a great experience.

Since then we have tried to save 'Little Red Riding Hood' from being axed and the cow from 'Jack and the Beanstalk' from being sold. The use of emotive language and hooking the reader into the argument have been some of the techniques used to engage the reader, along with the use of rhetorical questions and thinking of the opposing arguments. Misty Adoniou's a 'Repertoire of Spelling' is being used to teach spelling. Students are learning about the etymology, phonology, orthography and morphology of words. It has been interesting to learn about why words are spelt the way they are.

'Melting Moments' concluded with much chocolate and butter being sacrificed to searing heat provided by the sun. We have turned our attention to Kitchen Chemistry. This week we made butter and crystals and watched our cabbage indicator turn our test substances into different shades of green, pink/red and purple.

It has been lovely to see so many parents and grandparents join us in the morning for reading. It makes a great start to the day.

Camp Lost Property

There are a few items left from camp. In particular, there is a pillow with a brown pillowcase left from the Year 3/4 camp. All items are being held in lost property near the counsellor's room.

Janinne, Sarah & Therese

UNIT 5 NEWS

In Week 7 we travelled to the Cotter Dam as part of our Integrated Unit "Water Works". The day was a fantastic learning experience for the children, linking the student's discussions and investigations this term. This week, we have commenced the Technology component of the unit. Students need recycled resources to build their water efficient machine. A note has been sent home this week outlining what is required.

Investigations on Thursday mornings has also been linked to our 'Water Works' unit. The children have explored the power of water in water play, used water in Art activities, and produced flow charts detailing the process water goes through from the Cotter Dam to our taps. The students have also had the opportunity to create comics using ICT, play Maths games and use the iPads for spelling activities. There are also opportunities for students to develop their communication and leadership skills by leading games they have created or activities they are skilled in.

We hope your family has a wonderful Easter together.

Lauren, Tarnii and Rob

UNIT 6 NEWS

This term, we have used our inquiry unit on Insects to guide a lot of our classwork across the curriculum areas. We have been observing, reading, drawing, writing and creating art about insects. In Week 7, we were joined by a parent from our unit for a special science lesson on Bees. Thank you - we had so much fun! The students have been very interested in exploring this subject at school. To join in on the fun, families could take their students on their own 'backyard safari'.

In Maths, we have had a focus on number sequences (that include counting forwards, backwards and skip counting) as well as looking at place value of numbers up to 100. We have learnt a fun game to help us remember place value called 'Hide The Octopus'. Ask your child how to play!

Have a happy and safe Easter everyone!

Anna and Chrissie

UNIT 7 NEWS

We are already near the end of our first term of Kindergarten – how time flies! We have been training for Cross Country over the last few weeks, and were lucky enough to have a training session with our Year 6 buddies yesterday. The students enjoyed participating in the event, and had a great time cheering on their fellow teammates afterwards.

Students have been busy learning how to work and cooperate within small groups, and have begun guided writing sessions in class. These rotations take place across two days, where students are involved in a range of letter and word activities. Some favourites include the hands-on letter station, and the 'Invisible Circle', where students wear their special crown and participate in teacher-guided sessions. These sessions aim to move students' learning forward by targeting individual writing skills.

We are looking forward to hosting our first junior assembly in Week 3 next term (Friday 15 May). We hope to see you all there. Wishing you a safe and happy holiday.

Kellie & Megan