



# Weetangera School

'Our vision, as a community, is to inspire  
a passion for learning'



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

Weetangera School is an  
ANAPHYLAXIS AWARE SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a strange year indeed, a year beset by a number of challenges that I need not elaborate on here. I am sure we are all well aware of how COVID-19 alone has been the great disrupter that has forced us to rethink our teaching and supporting our community. This is before we even consider the more global and far reaching impacts COVID-19 has had. Especially for those of us that have friends and family abroad in countries and places that are dealing with a much more severe and far reaching crisis.

As we conclude what must be described as an extremely challenging and tricky year, our school community has still experienced yet another successful year at Weetangera School. It is timely to look back on all that has been achieved and start to plan the way forward for 2021. This is an opportunity to reflect with pride and a chance to look ahead with optimism and excitement.

A number of specific strategies were identified in the 2020 school action plan and successfully implemented. Specific actions included, launching our new School Plan 2020-2024 and school Vision: '*Inspiring a passion for learning*' & Mission: '*To develop and deliver an education empowering each person at Weetangera School to be a successful learner, a confident and creative individual, and an active and informed globally minded citizen*'. Specific strategies to develop whole school beliefs and expectations of curriculum delivery and planning in Writing and Mathematics were further embedded, building staff understanding of curriculum in order to plan for highly effective teaching and learning.

Over the course of the year there have been many great achievements by our students inside and outside the classroom. Trying to summarise all that happens in a place like Weetangera School over the course of a year is very hard indeed. The achievements and successes of 2020 do highlight the amazing dedication of our staff and students. Without the strong teacher and student relationships that have been established we would not be able to achieve all that we do. We also recognise the significant contributions that our families make to Weetangera School and thank you for your ongoing support and the time you provide and donate to Weetangera School. I also particularly thank the School Board and P&C for their unwavering support, assistance and guidance to support our school community throughout 2020.

Our volunteers are such a huge part of our school who work in so many ways to support us from coming on excursions, to helping with a learning program, to helping in the Canteen, to gardening, to being on the School Board or P&C. The year of 2020 has looked very different for many of our volunteers and we look forward to welcoming more back into our school in 2021. As a morning tea will not be held this year, please know that we appreciate what you do for us and we invite you to talk with us about how you may like to contribute next year.

I would like to thank and farewell some staff members. Ms Kellie Shoemark has successfully gained a teaching position at Gold Creek Preschool for 2021 and

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

**Parent Reps.** Yehuwdiy Dillon - 0458 866 937, Amy Begley - 0403 498 397, Vijaya Porwal

**Principal** - James Barnett 61422600; **Teacher Reps.** - Natarsha van den Boogaard

**Newsletter No. 39**  
**10 December 2020**  
**Term 4 Week 9**

## COMMUNITY DIARY

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

### December

- 10 Hot Dog Day -  
Canteen special lunch
- 14 Year 6 Dinner
- 16 Year 6 Fun Day
- 17 Year 6 Graduation



Weetangera School  
Southwell Street  
Weetangera ACT 2614  
Telephone: 6142 2600  
Canteen: 6142 2621  
**Please read our web site:**  
[weetangeraps.act.edu.au](http://weetangeraps.act.edu.au)

Mr Amar Aroun is retiring following an expansive 30 years teaching career. Their positive influence and impact as educators at Weetangera has been far reaching. On behalf of our school community we sincerely thank Kellie and Amar for designing learning experiences that are intellectually challenging, inclusive, relevant and connected to the Weetangera School community.

For 2021 we welcome Ms Celeste Tunnecliffe, a new educator teacher starting at Weetangera School.

The Education Directorate is starting some building works at Weetangera School in Unit 1 establishing two new Learning Support Unit classrooms for the school and community. They have commenced the building works this week and will conclude on January 15 2021. Ms Sarah Guy a Disability Education Specialist Primary School teacher from Blackett Public school, NSW will be joining us in 2021 to teach in the LSUA/LSU. Mrs Julia Ison will continue in her Education Directorate Instructional Mentor leadership role for Term 1 2021.

Planning for the future will continue, and the school improvement team will return to Weetangera in January to work towards a smooth and productive start to the 2021 school year. In particular, executive staff will finalise the 2021 School Action Plan, which will be implemented early in the new school year and teaching staff will be planning, designing, engaging and relevant learning plans in January.

As we draw closer to the sign off for this time of the year, I want to thank everyone at Weetangera School for your support and dedication to the great cause of Public Education. I give thanks to the teaching staff for the remarkable culture of learning that continues to grow and exists here. I also give thanks for the sense of community partnership that is part and parcel of a Weetangera School mindset.

I extend my best wishes for the festive season to the Weetangera School community. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the 2021 academic year.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday,

James M. Barnett

Principal

## AWARDS CERTIFICATES

Last week certificates were awarded for:

**Critical Thinking:** Daniel S, Chloe S-H, Oliver B, Harvey K, Phoenix L

**Communication:** Morgan H, Ruby H (WOM), Tyler B, Isabella D, Ethan W, Pheobe B, Elliot R (WOM), Indi G, Ian M, Anais D-C

**Creativity:** Lucy C, Lucie McG, Patrick K, Griffin B, Erin B (WOM), James S (WOM)

**Collaboration:** Emily W, Laurence L, Sophie S



This Friday will be the last session of Wheeltangera for the year. I would like to thank all the students that have participated in our weekly bike riding sessions and I hope you have enjoyed having an active start to the day each Friday. It has been great to see students from all year levels participating with a mix of beginning riders right up to experienced cyclists joining in each week.

We are aiming to conduct Wheeltangera again in Term 1 next year. Updates will be placed in the newsletter and posted on Seesaw to inform the Weetangera School community of the starting date.

Erwin McRae



## Please Donate to the Giving Tree Appeal

Donations can be placed in the collection box in the front foyer for donations of non perishable food items or small gifts. These will be placed in hampers 'Christmas Goodies' to support vulnerable families during this time across Belconnen.

# Spotlighting Weetangera

**Brought to you by...Preschool**

Only one more week of being pre schoolers!

Our Inquiry Unit this term focused on change, and incorporated the transition to primary school. Our transition program included a tour of the school, visits to Kindergarten and the opportunity to buy something from the canteen.

Without a doubt, our favourite part of the program would have to be getting to know our Year 5 Buddies and meeting up with them each week. All these planned experiences help support a smooth transition to primary school and make the process a little less stressful.

The pre schoolers also had some questions that they wanted to find out the answers before they started next year. We took a list of our questions up to Kindergarten and we are eagerly awaiting a reply to some of the mysteries surrounding school!



*"Is it hard?" Ashley*

*"Do you get homework?" Dhyan*



*"Do you get to play?" Charlotte*



We had 50 cents to spend at the canteen. We were very excited!



Buddies are a really important part of our transition to school. The children spend time together each week involved in “getting-to-know-you activities” and informal play. They also have lunch together on these days. The familiar face of an older buddy can be very reassuring as the children move into Kindergarten. Buddies are definitely a highlight of our week.



*“I like playing with my buddy.” Xander*



*“I like eating lunch with my buddy” Alexa*



# How does your garden grow?

## End of year clear out



December marks the end of the school year and it also means it is time to have a big clear out. This year we, as a school, are making a big effort to make sure all our waste goes to a new home, is recycled or segregated. Terracycle now recycles empty glue sticks - Yippee! So when we clear out our tote trays we have many options for the things we need to get rid of. We even have a swap station in the staffroom to help re-home unwanted resources.

The plants in the garden that we are going to save seeds from are starting to brown and are nearly ready for collection. That

will be a job for next week. I'm hoping to have an abundance of seeds to share next year.

The sweet peas were a great display in the garden this year and attracted lots of bees. There will be LOTS of sweet pea seeds. The fig tree we planted is going really well with vigorous new growth. There are also lots of self seeded tomato plants so early next year we should be able to pick and eat lots of tomatoes.



## Recycle tips

This week we look at ink and printer cartridges. If you work in an office or school or organisation that uses a lot of printer cartridges it might be worth looking into Cartridges 4 Planet Ark - <https://planetark.org/programs/cartridges-4-planet-ark> They offer a free collection service for larger quantities of printer cartridges. <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/items/i/ink-cartridges>

Happy gardening and recycling!  
Nicole and the garden/sustainability team.

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

[www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)

**FUN & LEARN CRICKET TECHNIQUE**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
Date: 11-12 Jan 2021  
Mon-Tue, 10 am-4 pm

Place: Harrison Cricket nets  
Katoomba St., Harrison

Cost: \$100 per player

PLEASE REGISTER AT  
<http://canberracricketacademy.com.au/school-holiday-registration>

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