



Weetangera School

Successful Learning Through Caring and Sharing



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

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back!

It is with great pleasure and a wonderful sense of anticipation that I write to you for this, the first time in 2016. I trust that your summer has been a real blessing and that you have had the opportunity to rest, relax and recuperate – but most importantly, to enjoy some unstructured time to be with family and friends and do the things you want to do.

A special word of welcome to all of our new families who joined us on Monday 1 February. We look forward to forging strong and lasting relationships with you, as together we support your children on their journey at Weetangera School. To our existing families, we welcome you back to a new chapter in the lives of your children, one in which we trust that they will continue to grow through caring and sharing.

As this school year begins, we as educators and parents, have an enormous gift to give, and the responsibility of enhancing the lives of all our students. Helping our students grow and succeed. It is our duty to serve as role models, but more than that, it is our responsibility to make a positive and lasting difference to our students.

As we begin this year, let us approach it with boldness and courage. We will continue to ignite passion in what we do, guided by our commitment to excellence, to drive and sustain the quality of our learning and high expectations and for us as a school community to seek ways of how we can continually improve.

'The 3Rs meet the 4Cs': Chrome books Years 3-6

Building on firm foundations, the school looks to the future in a 21st century approach to learning. Educational literature on 21st century thinkers emphasise a range of qualities that our future will need: open mindedness; the ability to work collaboratively with others; to engage in problem solving; to analyse and integrate knowledge; to think creatively and imaginatively; to apply knowledge to respond to emerging needs and trends; and to communicate accurately, clearly and effectively.

Our approach to teaching and learning is constantly reflected upon to evolve to meet these challenges, to give our students the best opportunity to engage with their preferred future.

The 21st century classroom at Weetangera School is where the 3Rs meet the 4Cs of Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking. Technology is not the answer, it's only a means to an end. Our students in Years 3-6 will have the opportunity to create & construct their knowledge with technology. This year we will rollout a 1-to-1 program in Years 3-6 to enhance learning and allow teaching to reflect the best of contemporary practice for an ever increasingly interconnected and digital world.

We must embrace change to remain at the cutting edge of excellence in education. The only certainty is that the world will continue to change, for example through an increasing dependence on technology. It is essential for

Newsletter No. 1
4 February 2016
Term 1 Week 1

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

February

- 23 P&C AGM 7pm
- 24 Swimming Carnival
- 30 March -1 April 5/6 & 3/4 School Camps



Don't forget to visit our Facebook page



ASSEMBLIES - 9:15am

Friday 5 February
No Assembly

Friday 12 February
Whole School

Attachment & Insert

'How to install the Weetangera School APP'

Weetangera School
Southwell Street
Weetangera ACT 2614

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Parent Reps. James Badgery 0412552634; Monique Allen 0407595572; **Community Rep.** Tomasi Wainigolo; **Principal** - James Barnett 62057488; **Teacher Reps.** - Isabel Dunn.

us to keep up to date.

We look ahead with optimism and excitement.

New Playground Equipment

During the holidays the school completed works on the school grounds levelling concrete areas around the school. The YMCA holiday program was further developed to support our families at Weetangera. The school finalised the construction and completion of the new playground equipment and began planning for upgrading the school's Wireless Access Points across the school buildings to support the roll-out of the 1-to-1 learning environment.

Sydney Academy of Chess

Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at school, Weetangera School. Chess is a valuable activity for children, developing their logical thinking skills, concentration and discipline, as well as being a source of much enjoyment! What better way to combine learning and fun!

The classes begin with an demonstration by an experienced coach. During the second half of the lesson children play games against each other, putting newly learned strategies into practice. As the term progresses and the children become proficient in all the basics, the lectures will move on to more complex ideas such as strategy, middle game ideas and chess technique. The cost for the coaching is \$8 per child per lesson. There are approx. 8-10 lessons during each term.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity after school on Monday each week 3:15pm to 4:15pm in the Library, please fill in the form sent home and **return it to the school office by Friday 5 February 2016.**

Thank you

Our sincere thanks go to Megan Matthews and Sarah Kamppi for sharing your time with the school community during the summer holidays to further develop imaginative play at Weetangera School, spending valuable time gathering resources to complement the school's Playpod. On behalf of the Weetangera School community we thank you.

I thank in advance our parents and carers for your unwavering support that you continue to provide to the school. We have been able to grow as a school community because of the opportunities that you have given us, as well as the affirmation and feedback that has allowed the school to progress. I look forward to our continued partnership as we work together to realise the potential of every single child at Weetangera School.

Small positive steps can dramatically enhance a child's learning experience. When we do this, we will be doing all that we can to make a positive difference. I urge all of us to take action that builds trust and mutually respectful relationships. Together

let's take the small steps needed to make our school and our community an even better place to learn, to work, and thrive. The happiness and academic confidence of our students is our priority at Weetangera School.

Getting To Know You Interviews

In Week 2, we will be holding *Getting To Know You* Interviews from Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February. These interviews are a conversation between you and your child's teacher, and are an opportunity for teachers to receive information from you about your child. Interviews are expected to take approximately 10 minutes. Each teacher will roster their available days and times on the website. For these interviews we are using an internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students! Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. Please contact the school if you need access to a computer. Please access the system as follows: go to the school's home page and newsletter page www.weetangeraps.act.edu.au click the PTO icon as shown here ...



enter your surname and PIN, provided on the attached slip

Full instructions are provided after you log in.

K-6 Morning Reading: every day 9am - 9:15am

Research tells us that the more students read, the more fluent they become and the better they comprehend. In an effort to increase our students' enjoyment of reading as well as to instil in them a lifelong love of reading, each morning at 9am-9:15am all of our students and parents and carers are invited to enjoy a good book in a comfortable setting surrounded by students and staff who enjoy doing the same in all the units across the school. Our Morning Reading program will commence on **Monday 15 February.**

In 2016 we will be introducing the inaugural Weetangera Reading Challenge!!

Electronic Communication

For all new parents and anyone who has changed their email address from last year, please send in your email address for receiving the weekly newsletter.

If you no longer require the newsletter to be sent to you please let us know and we will remove you from the list. If you did not receive your newsletter today by email and were expecting to, please send your details to jim.watt@ed.act.edu.au

Weetangera School APP

For all new parents and anyone who wishes to receive instant messages from the school for any upcoming events, reminders or school updates, please refer to the document below outlining **How to install the Weetangera School APP**.

Yours faithfully,

James M. Barnett
Principal

How to Install Our School App

On Apple

- On your iPhone open the app store
- Search for our school name
- Press Install
- Enter your iTunes password

It will commence downloading immediately

Android/Google Play

- On your SmartPhone open the Android/Google Play market
- Search for our school name
- Press install

Your app will start installing instantly

To Open Our School App

- Look for our schools app icon on your phone screen
- Press the icon once
- It will open automatically

When prompted select yes to receive notifications and use your location (this will make sure the google maps and pop-up alerts work for you)

If you encounter troubles;

- Shut down the app and or your phone to refresh the phones memory
- Uninstall your app and reinstall it

Contact www.activeschoolapps.com.au/support for help within 48 hours.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The School Board is responsible for the school's strategic direction (operational matters are the responsibility of the Principal), and meets at least once a term between February and November. The following position will be vacant from 31 March 2016: 1 x P&C member.

Nominations for this position are open from Monday 1 February 2016 and will close on Monday 15 February 2016. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of positions, voting will take place between Monday 21 February and Tuesday 1 March 2016.

Please consider becoming a member this year.

CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back to 2016! The canteen will reopen next Wednesday 10 February. The canteen committee will be holding our Annual General Meeting in the canteen on Friday 12 February at 9:30am.

A number of positions need to be filled this year including convenor and treasurer as well as general members. If you're interested in any of these positions or would just like to learn a bit more about what the canteen committee does please feel free to come along and enjoy a cuppa with us.

If you don't want to be part of the formal canteen committee but are interested in volunteering in the canteen, we'd love to hear from you. We always love to see new faces in the canteen and the kids get a real kick out of seeing mum or dad at the canteen.

Toddlers and babies are most welcome. We're looking forward to another great year of serving healthy, nutritious food and having some fun along the way!

Canteen Committee



SCHOOL BANKING 2016

School banking starts this Friday 5 February. This year the school banking theme is the Outback. If you had leftover tokens last year, you can use those to claim a reward this year. You will need to fill in a claim form and 10 tokens to claim a reward. For every deposit you make, you earn one token. The two rewards for Term 1 are Flying Snake Tails and a Wildlife Writer set.

For students who don't have a Commonwealth Savers account but would like to start school banking, there is an **account opening morning on Friday 12 February**. Parents just need to come and fill out a form. No ID is necessary as long as the student is enrolled at the school. Susan will set up a table in the playground from **8:30am**.

Remember School Banking is every FRIDAY!



GUIDES
AUSTRALIA
NSW & ACT

GIRL GUIDES

Girls in Foundation and Year 1 are invited to visit their local Gumnut Guide unit and find out what guides get up to.

Guides have FUN indoors and outdoors, learn new skills and make new friends.

Local guide units meet once a week during school term at the Guide Hall in Walhallow Street, Hawker.

To find out more contact: Rita Turnbull
0419663441 or rita.jean.rt@gmail.com

Word search 'School'

S Q S C H O O L B A G S S L E
C L F R I E N D S P S X T S Y
W O I Z N X C N H E H R U E R
R I M C K A E O C G E K D H A
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students pens pencils classrooms books
library desks chairs computers colour pencils
paints paintbrushes teacher paper school
bags recess lunch home time bells fun
friends learning reading writing drawing



READING AT THE TANG

8:30am to 8:55am

The library is open every morning for students with accompanying parents/carers to sit quietly and share a book. Entry is through the library side gate, just slide the glass door open and come on in... **ALL WELCOME**

