



Weetangera School

Successful Learning Through Caring and Sharing



ACT
Government
Education

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we conclude yet another highly successful year at Weetangera School, it is timely to look back on all that has been achieved and also start to plan the way forward for next year. This is an opportunity to reflect back with pride and a chance to look ahead with optimism and excitement. A number of specific strategies were identified in the annual school action plan and successfully implemented in 2017. Specific actions included, further developing our model of differentiation from Kindergarten to Year 6, advancing teacher expertise in literacy and numeracy through coaching and mentoring, enhancing student well-being and engagement and promoting community partnerships.

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 2017 do highlight the amazing dedication of our staff and students. Without the strong teacher/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 and volunteers make to Weetangera School and thank you for your ongoing support and the time you provide and donate to Weetangera School.

Our classroom programs are planned from the Australian Curriculum which outlines curriculum expectations and achievement standards across the years of schooling. In any class there is a range of ability and current attainment, with children working above or below their age and curriculum level. Our classes at Weetangera School are based on recognising differences and not seeing all aged students as the same and teaching according to need.

In 2018, we will introduce 5/6 composite classes to support the learning programs and single age level classes across the school P - 4. All classes at Weetangera School will still be operating learning groups at a variety of levels at the same time as part of the normal delivery of the curriculum. There is not and never has been a set learning program at each particular year level, rather there are expectations set at curriculum levels. It is also possible that a class, whether composite or same-year level, may have teaching and learning programs that cover more than the one curriculum level.

The most prominent meta-analyst in education to date is probably John Hattie, whose work draws on a total of about 800 meta-analyses, encompassing 52,637 studies (Hattie, 2009; 15: Hattie J (2009) *Visible Learning; a synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement* London; Routledge). His research is now based on nearly 1200 meta-analyses – up from the 800 when Visible Learning came out in 2009. According to Hattie the story underlying the data has hardly changed over time even though some effect sizes were updated. Key research evidence suggests that the type of class organisation or structure does not determine

Newsletter No. 39
7 December 2017
Term 4 Week 9

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

December

- 7 **School Concert TONIGHT**
- 11 Year 6 fun day
- 13 Year 6 Graduation
- 15 End of school year

ASSEMBLIES - 9:15am

Friday 8 December
No Assembly

Wednesday 13 December
Graduation Assembly



INSERTS

P&C Newsletter

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Parent Reps. Yvonne Gray 0414817680; Alex Nockels 0414914006; Janine O'Keefe 0411286853; **Community Rep.** Tomasi Wainigolo; **Principal** - James Barnett 62057488; **Teacher Reps.** - Isabel Dunn and Erwin McRae

Weetangera School
Southwell Street
Weetangera ACT 2614
Telephone: 6205 7488
Fax: 6205 7487
Canteen: 6207 7483

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

either educational advantage or disadvantage. Important success factors for student outcomes include the degree of commitment of teachers and, above all, the quality of classroom teaching and feedback on learning.

We are far more interested in the quality of the relationship between our children and the teacher, and high quality teaching, because that will have a far greater impact on the learning that takes place. It must be remembered that even within a class, all children are not at the same ability level. Teachers have and will always teach children by identifying stages of intellectual development, and never work from just chronological age.

Research also clearly indicates that if teachers teach in a purposeful and intentional fashion all children are extended through personalised learning. Combining high quality teaching and learning based on the needs of individual students, and using evidence informed modifications and accommodations to develop learning dispositions that foster autonomy and wisdom in our children will lead to positive educational outcomes for all of our students.

I would like to thank and farewell several staff members. Mrs Yvonne Piper has gained an executive teaching position at Charnwood Dunlop School for 2018. Mrs Chrissie Worland for her contributions and roles at Weetangera over the past 10 years at Weetangera School, has gained a teaching position at Majura Primary School. Ms Sarah Rossiter has transferred to Fraser Primary School. Mr Todd Richardson is going on to further studies at University of Canberra. Mr Will Adlide is going to Newcastle University to study to become a teacher. Ms Therese Skennar will be taking leave next year to teach in a remote NSW school for 2018. Mrs Leone Jansen will be travelling to Canada with her family for 2018. Their positive influence and impact as educators at Weetangera has been far reaching. On behalf of our school community we thank our staff we farewell for designing learning experiences that are intellectually challenging, inclusive, relevant and connected to the Weetangera School community. For 2018 we welcome Bec Smith as one of our executive school leaders to the school improvement team, Mrs Megan Ferdinand from Miles Franklin PS, Mr Matt Olsen from Kingsford Smith School, Mr Stephen Clarke from Ainslie PS, and Danielle Godwin from North Ainslie PS.

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.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday,

James M. Barnett
Principal

AWARDS CERTIFICATES

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

Communication: Samuel B, Hailey R, Oliver W, Lucy C, Ella B

Creativity: Olwyn D, Riley B, Angus H, Jacob K.

Collaboration: Lola F, Kosta G, Caitlin L, Joanna B, Allan B.

Critical Thinking: Elissa V, Georgia W, Taisiya G, Rajdeep K, George M, Rhys N, Olivia C, Dylan H, Noah H, Orien H.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

When: Weeks 7-10

Where: Weetangera School Foyer, under the Christmas Tree



YEAR 2's DA LITTLE SHOP

As part of our Bounce Back program, Year 2 has been operating a shop on Monday afternoons this term, with all money raised being donated to buy Backpack Beds for the homeless. We managed to raise a grand total of **\$371.65**, which is enough for four backpack beds!! We also learnt about the importance of showing kindness and helping others.

Year 2 would like to thank everyone who came along and supported this great cause, particularly Mr A who bought the world's most expensive pikelets!

P&C NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 20 February at 7.00pm

Staff Room – Weetangera School

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Weetangera School Parents and Citizens' Association will be held on Tuesday, 20 February commencing at 7.00pm. All current office bearer roles will be declared vacant and nominations called for the following positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

We will also be seeking to fill the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions, as well as up to 7 ordinary members (non-office bearers). The AGM is open to all parents and carers who wish to attend.

Nominations for positions can be sent to

Weetangera.pc.secretary@gmail.com

Nomination forms will be available at the front office in the new year.



Spotlighting Weetangera

Proudly brought to you by Year 6 Alice the Musical

“The highlight for me was everyone taking part in the play so no one missed out. It was fun to work together and build confidence when on stage in front of an audience.”

-Angus

“My part (stage manager) was difficult because you had to manage everything to do with the music, sounds and lighting. I enjoyed the musical and working together as a team.”

-Orien

“Everyone had an opportunity to have a go and be a part of something bigger than themselves. It was great to see the audience's reactions when we were on stage and the impact I made on them.”

-Jaime

“It was really fun to participate in the musical and I was pleased to get the lead role. Lots of parents have come up to me to say what a good job I did and it makes me feel very proud of myself.”

-Freya

“I liked having so many families coming to watch the play. It was amazing to have different families comment on all the hard work we had done. It was also nice to see everyone working together.”

-Sienna

“I was very nervous and I felt I shouldn't come on the night. However I had to come because I had to just do my part. In the end I was happy, tired and hungry because it was a big night.”

-Murray

“It was really good because everyone had a part and they wanted what they got. It was good to focus on other people on stage so I wouldn't be distracted by the audience as I was a little nervous at the start.”

-Tyler

“The acting and the play was really fun. I was proud of myself because it was hard to get up on stage but I pushed through and I made it.”

-Grace

“I loved my part as the Mad Hatter. I have to thank Mrs Lloyd-Jones for the clip on microphones she provided as without them I wouldn't have been able to project my voice.”

-Michael

