



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,

Unpacking Spelling...(word study)

This year, our teachers have spent time revising our approach to teaching spelling. Learning to spell is a complex process that to beginning writers of English, can seem illogical. This is largely because in English spelling is based not just on the sounds of words (alphabetical) but also on their history and meaning. For writers to communicate their ideas effectively they do need to be able to follow language conventions and one of these is spelling.



This year our teachers have been working with a leading Australian author and researcher in spelling, Chris Topfer. Some of her work highlights what it means to unpack spelling and develop learners who are interested in words and are able to effectively use them in their own writing. At Weetangera School, we call these learning sessions - **WORD STUDY**.

Chris Topfer's research informs us that:

- Students need purposeful reasons to write and to learn to spell.
- Fostering an interest in words has the biggest impact on spelling development.
- Good spellers are interested in words and how writers write.
- Listening, speaking, reading, writing and spelling are intertwined and nourish each other.

"In order to improve spelling, we need to spend productive time helping students to think about patterns in the English language and to become aware of the spelling strategies they use. Spelling is a complex cognitive process." (Chris Topfer)

Because we believe that learning to spell is an important part of becoming literate language users at Weetangera School we:

- Foster an interest in words and how they work (looking at patterns, sounds, generalisations).
- Encourage students to take risks with trying out new words and develop confidence as spellers.
- Write regularly with purpose and for real audiences (including opportunities to proofread and edit work).
- Explicitly teach and encourage students to use a variety of spelling strategies (including sound, visual, meaning, checking and making connections with other words). Relying on one strategy does not allow us to spell all words.
- Use a variety of resources to support spelling development (including charts, word walls, collecting rich and interesting words). Monitor progress with spelling.

Newsletter No. 13

17 May 2018

Term 2 Week 3

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

May

- 14-25 BOOK FAIR
- 15-17 NAPLAN
- 28 Reconciliation Day
Public Holiday
- 30 Athletics Carnival

★ **ASSEMBLIES - 9:15am** ★

Friday 18 May

Junior School Assembly

Hosted by Year 1

Friday 25 May

No School Assembly

★ **Attachments** ★

**Australian Girls
Choir Workshop**

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

Book Fair

The Weetangera School Book Fair commenced this week and will continue until next Friday, 25 May. The Book Fair will be open from 8:30am – 9:00am and 3:00pm – 4:00pm in the school library each day. Families are welcome to visit our library to view the wonderful resources available.

Preschool Working Bee

This Sunday from 10am-12pm, we will be holding our preschool working bee to progress work in our preschool grounds. If anyone is able to lend a hand during this time, we would be delighted to see you there.

Kind regards,

Julia Ison

AWARDS CERTIFICATES

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

Communication: Ryan J, Evie M, Olwyn D.

Creativity:

Collaboration: Gemma T, Oliver S, Brobie N, Katie M, Lucy M.

Critical Thinking: Charlotte M, Bonnie A, Dylan W.

2018 BELCONNEN PSSA SPORT TRIALS

Students in Year 5 and 6 are eligible to trial for Belconnen PSSA sports teams. The sports that students can trial in are: netball, Australian Rules, soccer, rugby league, touch football, hockey, basketball, cricket and softball. For the most commonly played sports, e.g. netball and soccer children should have playing experience and ideally be playing this year. The reason for this is that there are twenty five schools in the Belconnen region and trials become very difficult to conduct if the number of participants is too large. For sports that have less playing opportunities for primary aged students, e.g. touch football and softball playing experience is beneficial but not essential.

To participate in trials a parent needs to register their child online on the School Sport ACT website www.schoolsportact.asn.au

Parents should regularly check this website to find out about trial dates and venues. When dates are provided by the organisers of each sport for the respective trials, notes and additional information will be handed out to students at school.

For any enquiries about the procedure for selection in Belconnen PSSA teams please contact me at school.

Erwin McRae

TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots activities are based around athletics running, jumping and throwing events and are designed to help children develop fundamental movement skills (FMS). FMS act as precursors to more specialised, challenging and complex movement skills.

Mastering FMS assists children to be physically active, which helps with their general health and wellbeing, promotes social interactions and emotional attributes and thus assists in the development of speech, self-esteem, confidence and independence.

Each week Tiny Tots are engaged with colour, activities, learning, movement and fun. Parents are actively encouraged to join in and share the bond, connection and joy of participating actively with their children. The laughter, happiness, development and friendships being made is always heart-warming, beautiful and special.

- Wednesday 4:30pm – 5:30pm – Commencing 2nd May (10 week season)
- Saturday 9am – 10am – Commencing 5th May (10 week season)
- Cost: \$80/season

Register Today at :www.ginninderra.com/2018/04/winter-athletics-wonderland/

The Weetangera School Book Fair

Monday 14 May till Friday 25 May

Opening hours

8:30am – 9am then
3pm - 4pm



Come along and purchase a book to read and you will be supporting the purchase of 'New' books for the Library

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.

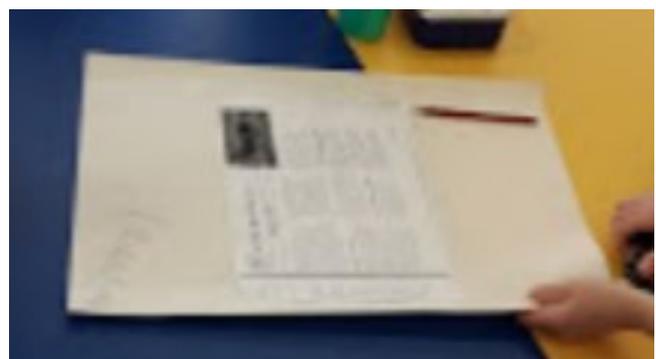
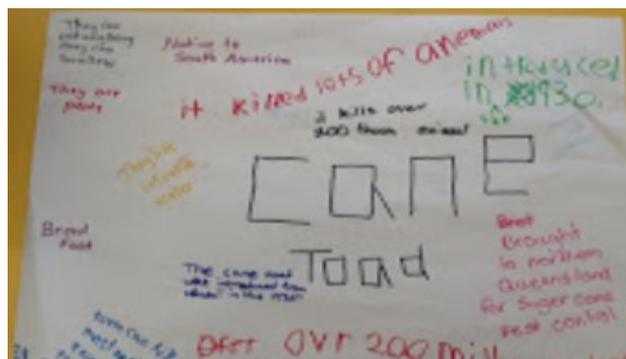
ALL WELCOME

Spotlighting Weetangera

Proudly brought to you by

Year 4

We have been investigating the impact of introduced plants and animals on Australia. Each group researched a topic and became an expert in their area.



In drama the students were asked to present a fairytale of their choice in 3 freeze frames. Can you guess which one each group chose?

